

Libya denies expelling Egyptians

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libya said on Friday that it had taken no measures against Egyptians working in the country after reports that 2,500 Egyptians had been expelled, possibly for security reasons. "There are nearly 1.5 million Egyptian workers (in Libya) cooperating with their Libyan brothers in developing the country," Libyan Minister for Unity Jumaa Al Mahdi Al Fazzani said, quoted by the state news service JANA. The Egyptian head of customs at the Sullum border post, Mohammed Al Adl, told AFP on Thursday that some 2,500 Egyptians had been thrown out of Libya in the preceding 48 hours. Mr. Adl said 600 Palestinian expatriates were also expelled to the Gaza Strip. But Mr. Fazzani said on Friday that "the exits and entries at Libyan-Egyptian border posts are completely ordinary," adding that he was "surprised" by the Egyptian reports. JANA added that Mr. Fazzani had contacted Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa about the reports. Mr. Musa said in a statement Friday that his ministry was "in contact with Libyan officials in order to stop the expulsions of Egyptian citizens."

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Iraqi defectors granted refuge in Jordan

Hussein Kamel, Saddam's son-in-law, in contact with U.S. officials, Iraqi opposition

Saddam: Defectors stole millions

Aziz says nothing has changed in Iraq

By Natasha Bukhari with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Two daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and their husbands, one of them the architect of the country's military weapons programme, who have been given asylum in Jordan, remained under tight Jordanian security outside Amman on Friday.

The two sons-in-law of the Iraqi president were reported to have established contacts with opposition groups and the U.S. government.

Hussein Kamel Al Hassan, Iraq's minister of minerals and industries, and his brother Saddam, head of the presidential guards, fled to Jordan on Tuesday along with their wives, Ragha and Rana — the eldest and second daughters of President Saddam.

King Hussein met with the Hassans shortly after their arrival on Tuesday and granted them asylum in response to their request.

President Saddam sent his eldest son Uday and a cousin, former Defence Minister Ali Hassan Majid, to Amman Thursday evening with a message to His Majesty King Hussein seeking the return of the Hassans. The King met with them for about 10 minutes, but turned down the demand for the return of the defectors, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said.

"It was a big no," said Mr. Kabariti.

Mr. Kabariti said the granting of the asylum was in line with Jordan's traditional policy of giving refuge to any Arab seeking shelter. "He who enters Abu Abdullah's house is safe," said the minister, quoting from a old saying.

President Saddam meanwhile sent a congratulatory message to the King on the occasion of the anniversary of the Monarch's accession to the throne on Thursday. The message was taken as an indication that the defection did not have any serious and immediate impact on Jordanian-Iraqi relations.

The overland flow of Iraqi oil to Jordan continued as normal on Friday. Some reports had suggested that the Iraqi government should shut off the flow in retaliation for Jordan granting asylum to the Hassans. But experts and analysts dismissed the suggestion, pointing out that Iraq needed Jordan as much as

King thanks Clinton for pledge to defend Jordan

WASHINGTON (AFP) — King Hussein thanked President Bill Clinton Friday for pledging to protect his country should Iraq retaliate against Amman's decision to grant asylum to President Saddam Hussein's family members, the White House said.

White House spokesman Michael McCurry said Mr. Clinton called the King, who expressed his gratitude for Mr. Clinton's vow Thursday before the two leaders discussed the impact of the flight Tuesday by President Saddam's two daughters and their husbands, both key insiders of the regime.

"It is clear that the motivation for the defections are the deplorable conditions which exist in

side Iraq and the lack of credibility of Saddam Hussein," Mr. McCurry said.

Mr. McCurry said there had been no indications the defectors would seek U.S. asylum and could not confirm reports that there had been direct contact between the Iraqis and U.S. officials.

In Amman, a Western diplomat said that senior U.S. military officials arrived here on Friday and held an "informal meeting" with Mr. Hassan.

The U.S. military officials and Mr. Hassan "are discussing information that General Hussein Kamel Hassan might have on Iraqi arms, especially biological and chemical," the official added.

Jordan needed Iraqi oil.

If anything, they said, a suspension of Iraqi oil supply to Jordan would be more detrimental to the interests of Iraq, which depends on the Kingdom for access to the outside world.

According to sources, the Iraqi defectors, who were accompanied by a cousin, Major Izzeddine Hassan, and his family and about 15 Iraqi soldiers and officers — all of whom were also given refuge — were staying at a villa in Naour outside Amman.

It was not immediately clear why the Hassans, who hail from the powerful Al Majid clan in Takrit, President Sad-



Hussein Kamel Hassan

Defections bewilder Iraqis living in Jordan

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Iraqi refugees in Jordan said on Friday they were shocked by news of the defection of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's sons-in-law to the Kingdom.

But while some said it showed President Saddam's grip on power was falling apart, few believed it might lead to his imminent removal or to an easing of stringent U.N. economic sanctions, which have made life very difficult for their compatriots.

"We are extremely happy by what happened. Finally someone stood up and shook the base of Saddam," said Miriam Khalil, a Christian, seeking free treatment for her three children outside a religious charity in downtown

Amman. "But my heart is burning over my people and their suffering. I see no end in sight because only God can remove Saddam."

King Hussein gave asylum to two sons-in-law of President Saddam, including the powerful industry minister, their wives, children and bodyguards after they fled to Amman on Tuesday.

They join over 30,000 Iraqis who have fled to Jordan since the 1991 Gulf war to escape economic hardship.

But Jordan has not allowed them to use Amman as a base to rally opposition against President Saddam, raising doubts the defectors can use them to build a basis for a strong anti-Saddam front.

The minister, General Hussein Kamel Hassan, had

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Friday accused his son-in-law who defected to Jordan of having "stolen" millions of dollars in a statement on official radio here.

General Hussein Kamel Hassan, "stole several million dollars from the Iraqi people," the president said. "He would be better off dead than to live in dishonour."

Jordan granted General Hassan, the former industry minister and a key aide, his brother and their wives — President Saddam's daughters — political asylum on Thursday.

President Saddam also pledged on Friday that his country's march towards prosperity will go on despite "traitors."

"Iraq's victorious march will continue despite hard circumstances and betrayals by traitors," he said in a statement carried by the official INA news agency.

"This march will only go upwards towards prosperity," he said.

"We will fight treason, especially that which attacks the resources and fortunes of

the people as if they were cattle to be milked," he said.

"Hussein Kamel has betrayed and was close to us, but his influence would be like that of Judas," President Saddam said.

President Saddam said history "will stone him (Hussein Kamel) as it did with others and he'd rather die and not lead a humiliating life."

The Iraqi leaders predicted that Mr. Hassan's statements in exile would be used "to cover up for extending the period of the sanctions" which have been imposed on Iraq since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Also Friday, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz scoffed at American concerns that his country posed a military threat to Jordan.

President Bill Clinton Thursday pledged that the United States would come to Jordan's defence if the Kingdom were threatened by Iraq.

But Mr. Aziz ridiculed what he called an American "hallucination" of a possible Iraqi attack on its neighbour, saying "this is only nonsense," the Iraqi News Agency reported.

"Any interpretations linking the escape of Hussein Kamel and conditions in the country are mere deception... or wrong conclusions without any weight," Mr. Aziz said.

"Hussein Kamel occupied an important position in the state when he was part of it and loyal to it and its leader... when he betrays his country and leader and flees he loses all weight and any influence in the state's affairs," Mr. Aziz said.

Mr. Hassan was widely believed to be the highest ranking man in the leadership after President Saddam. He masterminded development of Iraq's military industry and helped establish Iraq's elite force of Republican Guards.

Mr. Aziz, branding him a traitor, said: "It would be silly to imagine that a leader like Saddam Hussein draws his power in leading the country from a person like this."

The deputy prime minister said that at the start of the 1968 revolution which

(Continued on page 3)

Israel, PLO leap hurdles to self-rule; talks go on

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation have cleared some major hurdles along the road to a full accord to spread self-rule over the West Bank, but failed to complete the job and negotiations are to continue.

Israel's chief negotiator Uri Savir predicted Friday that it would take several weeks more.

"An overall agreement should be reached in the coming weeks, before the Jewish new year," which falls on Sept. 24, said Mr. Savir, the director general of the foreign ministry.

Progress made in four days of meetings between Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat this week "will allow us to intensify the talks," he told Israel Radio.

Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat announced early Friday that several obstacles blocking the spread of autonomy had been lifted, but not all. Water, sharing and the fate of Hebron are among the intractable issues.

The question of Hebron, where Israel wants to keep forces to protect the 400 Jewish settlers surrounded by 110,000 Arabs, is to go to a joint committee (see page 2).

Negotiating teams are to resume their work on the fine detail on Sunday in the Red Sea port of Eilat. Mr. Peres said he would meet the PLO leader again at the end of next week.

The minister reported that a document had been drawn up settling differences over control of rural zones on the West Bank, military redeployment, Palestinian prisoners, taxation, economic development and amending the Palestinian national charter.

The document will not be made public until Sunday but he filled in a few details in an interview with Israel Radio.

He said prisoners would be released in three waves: first when the accord is signed to extend autonomy, secondly when elections take place and finally when an agreement is reached on the final status.

But there was no commitment to free all the estimated 6,000 Palestinians in Israeli jails.

He gave no numbers on how many would be set free at each stage.



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Taba (AFP photo)

Mr. Peres predicted that the elections would be held in two or three months.

Final status negotiations — to include the issues of Jerusalem, settlements and refugees — are set to start by May 1996.

"We have agreed that 420 Palestinian villages will be administered by the PLO, but overriding security will remain in Israeli hands," Mr. Peres said.

"Israel reserves the right to hot pursuit of suspects," fleeing into PLO controlled areas on the West Bank, he stressed.

"All movements of armed Palestinian police roads will have to be coordinated with Israel."

The text of the Palestinian charter, which calls for the destruction of Israel, will be amended by PLO leaders two months after a final accord on expanding autonomy is signed, according to Peres.

He added that Israel, the United States and the PLO would form a tripartite committee to promote economic growth on the West Bank.

"After very historical, important and difficult days we have achieved something

very concrete and positive for the second stage of autonomy," Mr. Arafat said.

"We hope we can continue in this way to reach a full agreement. There are still points to be discussed in sub-committees."

Arafat spokesman Marwan Kanafani said the PLO hoped an overall deal would be signed at the White House in Washington in September.

But he warned: "The question of Hebron is a timebomb which could blow up the entire accord."

The talks at Taba on the Egyptian side of the Red Sea produced a timetable for troop withdrawals. Israel will pull out from West Bank towns once a full agreement is sealed. Three more stages of redeployment will be spread over 18 months after the elections.

Mr. Peres said the redeployments should be completed in mid-1997. They do not cover the 140 Jewish settlements but exact areas have not been defined.

The hawkish opposition Likud Party demanded Friday that the government pub-

(Continued on page 7)

Big powers seek fresh approach to Balkan crises

ZAGREB (Agencies) — Russia and the United States, increasingly at odds over former Yugoslavia, have agreed to meet to try to coordinate peace efforts, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Friday.

French and U.S. officials agreed to seek a speedy meeting of the five-nation "contact group" on the Yugoslav conflict, officials said here.

The meeting of the group, comprising Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States, would be aimed at restarting the peace process, a statement issued by the office of French President Jacques Chirac said.

In Sarajevo, the International Committee of the Red Cross said it believed some 6,000 people were missing in eastern Bosnia but said it could not confirm a U.S. assertion that thousands of Muslims were executed and buried in mass graves.

The U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Madeline Albright, gave the Security Council what one U.S. official called compelling evidence, including spy photographs and eyewitness accounts, of mass machine-gunnings of Muslims by Bosnian Serb soldiers.

A U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo said the U.N. was demanding "as hotly as we can" immediate access to the site, where as many as 2,700 Muslims may have been machine-gunned outside Srebrenica, captured by Bosnian Serbs last month.

Russia, highly critical of Croatia's successful offensive in Krajina, welcomed Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to Moscow this week and threatened to lift sanctions unilaterally on Belgrade.

U.S. National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, who arrived in Paris on Friday for talks with the French government, will now meet Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev on Saturday in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Interfax news agency said.

Governments are struggling to adjust to new military realities on the ground after Croatia won back its rebel Serb Krajina enclave last weekend in a blitz offensive that sparked a massive refugee exodus.

In other developments: Belgrade said that any incursion by Croatian troops into Serb-held eastern Slavonia would be considered an attack against its own national interests.

"Every country decides its own national interests and others must be aware of these before the situation gets ugly," Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vukobratovic told a rare press briefing. He added that Serbia would not accept a "fait accompli" in Croatia.

He also accused the U.N. Confidence Restoration Operation (UNCRO) of reneging on a deal to assure safe passage of some 150,000 Serb refugees fleeing Krajina after the Croatian offensive there, and appealed for an early lifting of international sanctions against Belgrade.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, seeking to end a deep rift with the military, reinstated General Ratko Mladic as army commander Friday a week after firing him, a senior Serb official said.

"Everything goes back to the way it was a week ago," Bosnian Serb Information Minister Miroslav Tihomir said.

The Bosnian Serb news

agency SRNA said Mr. Karadzic "decided to suspend all planned changes in the army."

Mr. Karadzic made the move in response to Bosnian Serb public opinion, including the Orthodox Church. "In the interest of Serb unity in order to achieve victory," according to a statement from the Bosnian Serb leadership quoted by SRNA.

Mr. Karadzic's dismissal of General Mladic, who is extremely popular with his troops, had deepened a rift between the Serbs' political and military leaders. This week the entire general staff of the military rejected the move, as had Gen. Mladic himself, and said they would only take orders from Gen. Mladic.

The 52-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) will hold emergency ministerial talks in Yemen on Aug. 28 to discuss the plight of fellow Muslims in Bosnia, an official was quoted as saying.

The OIC "has in principle set Aug. 28 as the date for an emergency foreign ministers' meeting in Sanaa to discuss the issue of Bosnian Muslims," September 26 newspaper quoted Yemeni Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Ghaleb Jameel as saying.

Hundreds more Serb refugees — some bloodied, bruised and thinking of revenge — poured into Serbia after a harrowing journey from their homes in Croatia.

"We went through hell," said Danica Tropevic, bearing a large scar on her left cheek from a rock thrown as the refugee convoy passed through Sisak, a central Croatian city on the main road to Serbia.

(Continued on page 7)

Clinton vetoes bill to lift Bosnia embargo

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton vetoed legislation to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia on Friday, and the White House expressed confidence Congress would uphold the veto despite sweeping support for the measure.

"I know that members of Congress share my goals of reducing the violence in Bosnia and working to end the war," Mr. Clinton said in a statement. "But their vote to unilaterally lift the arms embargo is the wrong step at the wrong time."

The veto was delayed until midday to minimize chances of the Senate taking a swift vote to override. On Capitol Hill, the leader of the Republican majority, Senator Bob Dole, announced the Senate would not act until it returns from a recess in early September.

The administration plans to use the time between now and the Congress members' return to marshal support for Mr. Clinton's position against arming Bosnia's Muslim-led military.

The Republican-controlled House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly on Aug. 1 to unilaterally lift the embargo on Bosnia after a withdrawal of U.N. peacekeepers or within 12 weeks of a request by the Muslim-led Bosnian government.

It followed a similar Senate resolution that passed last week 69-29.

The White House says it is not concerned about an attempt to block the veto, a move which requires a two-thirds majority in both the House and the Senate, even though both chambers passed the measure with enough votes to override the veto.

"Given the current success

of the tougher measures in and around the U.N. safe areas (in Bosnia) and our aggressive pursuit of diplomacy, we think that will make a persuasive case in support of the president's veto," White House spokesman Michael McCurry said.

"We are confident at this point we can sustain a veto override," said Mr. McCurry, adding, however, that changes on the ground in the former Yugoslavia could weaken the administration's position.

Mr. Clinton said he opposed ending the arms ban unilaterally because it would lead to the collapse of the U.N. peacekeeping effort in Bosnia and draw U.S. soldiers into the conflict.

Washington has pledged up to 25,000 troops to aid a U.N. withdrawal.

"If the Bosnian government suffered reverses on the battlefield, we — and not the Europeans — would be expected to fill the void with military and humanitarian aid," the president's statement added.

Mr. Clinton also warned that lifting the embargo at this juncture could cause the fighting in Bosnia to escalate.

"The Serbs will not delay their assaults while the Bosnian government reviews new arms and training," he said.

Mr. McCurry said the U.S. allies were anxiously watching to see whether Congress will overrule the president.

France and Britain in particular oppose the move, arguing that peacekeeping mission to which they are the major contributors would be at risk.

Mr. Clinton also argued that lifting the arms embargo now "would undercut the new diplomatic effort we are currently engaged in."

Antagonism over Hebron stalls deal

HEBRON (AFP) — Rival Jewish and Arab claims to Hebron have turned the occupied city into the main flashpoint on the West Bank and a stumbling block to the spread of Palestinian autonomy across the territory.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe renewed calls Friday for the evacuation of the 400 die-hard settlers who live in a fortified compound in the heart of the town, protected by 2,000 Israeli soldiers.

The question of who is to control Hebron, home to 120,000 Palestinians, blocked a broader agreement over the division of the West Bank and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to extend autonomy.

Israel wants to maintain troops in the town to protect the settlers, while the PLO demands a troop pullout from all West Bank towns to enable elections to go ahead to an autonomy council.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres admitted that he had been unable to strike a deal with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on Hebron and that the issue would now go to a special joint committee.

"We are very sorry and very sad to be left out," Mr. Natshe told AFP. "Hebron should be evacuated by Israel along with the other cities."

"We think this means that the people of Hebron will not be able to vote in the elections and if they do not vote the elections cannot be democratic."

"The people were closely following the negotiations in the hope of an end to our suffering."

Mr. Natshe and his council believe the only way to peace, particularly since a settler slaughtered 30 Muslims in Hebron's Ibrahim Mosque in February 1994, is to remove the Jewish presence.

He wants Palestinian police to protect Muslims at the tomb, which is holy to both faiths.

It was Hebron that the Bible says God made a covenant with Abraham (Ibrahim) to lead the "chosen people." And the Jewish hardliners insist they have a divine right to be here.

They believe all the "biblical land of Israel" belongs to the Jews according to the "divine promise."

The council of Jewish settlements issued a statement Friday vowing to maintain a Jewish foothold in the city.

"Jews have been in Hebron for 3,000 years, long before the Arabs arrived and will be there long after," the council said.

In fact, it was in 1968 that the first Israeli hardliners moved back.

In the wake of Arab protests that swept Palestine in August 1929, the tiny Jewish community of Hebron had been virtually wiped out. Thirty-five families returned in 1931 but everything was destroyed in 1936 and the British evacuated survivors.

Armed extremists made little secret of their intentions to force out Hebron's Palestinian population after the 1967 war.

A clandestine Jewish group carried out three bomb attacks against Arab mayors in June 1980 in retaliation for the killing of six settlers in Hebron.

In 1983, the group killed four students at the Islamic college in the town.

A year later the network was smashed and its militants jailed, but they soon regained their freedom.

The anti-Arab Kach movement took up the fight and hit back after each attack on Jews, particularly after the Middle East peace process began in 1991.

Baruch Goldstein, who carried out the massacre in the Ibrahim Mosque, won fulsome praise from Kach and the movement was banned in March 1994.

The mosque is the traditional burial site of Abraham, his wife Sarah, and their family.

Herod the Great sealed off the cave in 20 B.C. with massive stones and today a huge structure covers the site, more like a fortress than a holy sanctuary.

Control over the site passed between Christians, Muslims and Jews over the centuries.

By 1260, the Muslim rulers refused to allow Jews to ascend any higher than the seventh step of an outside staircase.

The stairway was destroyed when Israeli forces took the city in 1967.



SETTLERS DIG IN: Jewish settlers gather around a deserted house they have illegally occupied in the West Bank town of Hebron to continue a campaign to prevent the expansion of Palestinian autonomy to the West Bank (see page one)

Archaeologists discover untouched Dead Sea caves

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Archaeologists announced Friday that they have discovered four man-made caves in the chalky hills of Qumran, not far from where Arab shepherds first found the ancient Dead Sea scrolls.

Hopes are high that the undisturbed new caves contain more of the manuscripts written by the Essenes, a Jewish dissident sect that may have influenced the teachings of Jesus.

Excavation of the caves is to begin in November, as archaeologists race against time before Qumran area of the West Bank, on the northwest shores of the Dead Sea, is handed over to Palestinian control.

The discovery of the caves now is surprising. The entire area has been extensively excavated and surveyed since the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered in the 1950s. The last scroll was found in 1956.

"This is the first time since the 1956 that caves carved by humans have been found in the Qumran area," archaeologist Magen Broshi told the Associated Press.

Mr. Broshi, the former curator of the Dead Sea scrolls at the Israel Museum, came out of retirement to join the excavation with Hanan Eshel, an archaeologist from Bar Ilan University, who discovered the caves about a year ago.

"I know we are running out of time," Mr. Eshel told the AP. "A lot of things can happen. They may collapse, someone may loot them or maybe the political situation will change."

To prevent looting, the existence of the caves was kept secret until the archaeologists were ready to begin excavation. The entrances have been hidden and the exact location has not been disclosed.

The caves are carved in sand and limestone. "They haven't been touched. These caves are pure and sealed," Mr. Broshi said in a telephone interview.

He said chances are good that they were inhabited by members of the Essenes sect, who lived in the area between about 150 B.C. and 50 A.D.

Mr. Eshel said he had located trails that led from the caves to the Essenes' settlement at Qumran.

"Even if we don't find anything and they are totally empty it offers more information on how these people lived," he said.

The Dead Sea scrolls are ancient documents that include poetry, legal texts and the earliest known sections of the Bible. They were found in 11 caves near the Dead Sea between 1947 and 1956.

Some 530 of the 850 Dead Sea scrolls were found in one cave in the marl terrace similar to the ones Mr. Eshel and Mr. Broshi plan to excavate. But the scrolls did not survive well in the crumbly cave and archaeologists are still piecing together the 15,000 fragments.

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"The chances of finding scrolls in good condition are not very high," Mr. Eshel said.

Mr. Eshel participated in "Operation Scroll," a sweep of caves in the Jericho region before the area was handed over to Palestinian control in 1994. The operation unearthed a number of 2nd century documents, jewelry and coins, but was criticised by Palestinians as last-minute plundering.

"The political situation doesn't help," Mr. Eshel said.

Mr. Broshi said he was not concerned since peace negotiations on expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank talks seemed to be progressing slowly. But if the area was transferred before excavations began, he said, the caves would be plundered "quicker than you can say Jack Robinson."

"I will say that it is in the interest of scholarship that the excavations occur now before they (the caves) will be robbed," Mr. Broshi said.

Mr. Eshel said he would be working with Vendyl Jones, a Texas Bible scholar who has led a number of archaeological digs to the Qumran area in search of the lost ark.

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Saudis raise funds to help Bosnians

RIYADH (AFP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia announced a personal gift of \$13 million to Bosnian Muslims on Friday at the launch of a 12-hour telethon for the beleaguered citizens of the former Yugoslav republic.

Four hours after the start of the events on Friday, Saudi television said its programme had raised \$40 million in donations from Saudis and foreign benefactors.

Saudi Arabia, which followed a number of other Gulf countries in holding a televised telephone fund-raising event for Bosnia, said on Thursday it had already raised \$213 million before the telethon began.

King Fahd, who has donated \$103 million to Bosnia since the war began in 1992, received a personal message of thanks from Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic after his latest gift, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

"The king's assistance has come at a time when the people have a desperate need for aid from their (Saudi) brothers," said President Izetbegovic.

King Fahd on Thursday made a fresh appeal to the international community and particularly Islamic countries to save Bosnian Muslims from slaughter by the Serbs.

"Your brothers ask you to come to their aid. It is our duty for all of us to intervene to save this Muslim people, crushed by Serb aggression," he said.

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Turkish soldiers and 'copters hunt rebels'

TUNCALI (R) — Thousands of Turkish troops backed by helicopters firing rockets tried to flush a small group of Kurdish guerrillas out of mountain hideouts in eastern Turkey on Friday, security officials said.

More than 2,000 soldiers were taking part in the sweep against about 120 Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels in and around Nazimiye district in Tunceli province, they said.

At least six rebels and one soldier have been killed in fighting in the area since midweek, the officials said.

Tunceli has been the scene of heavy clashes since PKK regional commander Semdin Sakik began operating in the province last year.

Rebels who had surrendered to security forces told reporters this week that Mr. Sakik, also known as "fingerless Zeki," had recently left Tunceli for Sinigol to the east because the rebels' food supplies in Tunceli were running low.

Police and soldiers tightly control food deliveries in Tunceli to prevent villagers giving food to the guerrillas, either willingly or under PKK pressure.

About 10,000 soldiers are positioned near the border between Tunceli and Bingol.

to flush out the guerrillas in Nazimiye and prevent Mr. Sakik and about 50 rebels accompanying him from returning to his former stronghold in the mountains and Tunceli.

More than 17,500 people have been killed in the PKK's 11-year-old fight for autonomy or independence in the southeast Turkey. Security forces killed five rebels in other parts of the region on Friday, Anatolian news agency said.

Two people were wounded when a bomb they were preparing in an Istanbul apartment exploded prematurely on Thursday night.

Police were searching for a third person who fled after the explosion on Thursday evening, and Anatolian news agency identified the three as Kurdish militants.

Police also said they detained seven people from a group called the Turkish Revolution Party, allegedly behind a grenade attack on an Istanbul police bus on July 21 that wounded 12.

Turkish experts say the group is linked to the PKK.

Anatolian also reported 29 people kidnapped in eastern Bingol province by the PKK, were released on Friday after two days of lectures about the Kurdish cause.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Libya, Algeria sign security agreement

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libya and Algeria signed a cooperation agreement on security issues during a visit here by Algerian Interior Minister Mustapha Benmansur, the official Libyan news agency JANA reported Friday. Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has repeatedly criticised armed Muslim fundamentalists who since 1992 have tried to bring down the Algerian government. Colonel Qadhafi has called them "a disgrace to Arab nationalism." The two countries are members of the Arab Maghreb Union, which also includes Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania.

Khashoggi family hit twice by robbers

NICE, France (R) — Thieves swooped twice on the family of Saudi multi-millionaire Adnan Khashoggi on holiday on the French Riviera, stealing jewellery, cash and valuables from two villas within a few days, French police said on Wednesday. They said jewels worth 20 million francs (\$4.2 million) belonging to Mr. Khashoggi's wife Shahpar were stolen last weekend from their rented villa at Villefranche-sur-mer. The villa showed no signs of forced entry and none of the five employees reported anything unusual. On Tuesday, cash, a watch and cufflinks worth 150,000 francs (\$27,000) disappeared from the villa of Mr. Khashoggi's son Hussein in nearby Mougins, police said. The Saudi financier regularly takes holidays on the French Riviera. Gems worth a quarter of a million francs (\$52,000) were reported stolen from him in Cannes in 1993.

Japan studying mission on Golan — report

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan is considering sending its peacekeeping troops to the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights in February next year to replace Canadian troops, the Yomiuri Shimbun said Thursday. The government is expected to come up with the conclusion on the controversial dispatch within this month, the mass-circulation daily said. Japan had earlier ruled out participation in the U.N. peacekeeping operations there in May due to opposition from Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's Social Democratic Party (SDP). But the SDP is now inclined to accept the dispatch on condition that the current law restricting Japan's participation in core peacekeeping activities like truce monitoring and disarmament remain untouched, the daily said. Japan has been asked to replace the Canadians who have been carrying out transport missions in the Golan.

Members of Saudi royal family killed in crash

THE CAPE, South Africa (AFP) — Ten people, seven of them Saudis including members of the royal family, were killed in a road accident in South Africa's Cape region, police said Friday. The identities of the Saudi victims, who were on holiday in the area, had not been released "at the request of the Saudi royal family" which would make its own announcement later Friday, a police spokesman told AFP. The accident occurred Thursday afternoon on a motorway between Swellendam and Riversdale, some 200 kilometres east from Cape Town, when the Saudis' minibus was in a head-on collision with a car at a crossroads. The car's three occupants were killed outright. Two Saudi women aged 50 and 32 and five children aged between three and 17 were also killed.

Hamas halted attacks — Palestinian official

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas has called a halt to military operations against Israel for fear of "negative reactions" from the Palestinian population, a PLO security official said Thursday.

"Hamas has shown good sense in suspending operations to enable the Authority to negotiate with Israel," said General Zahariya Balusha of the Palestinian internal security service.

But he stressed in an interview on Israeli state radio that he was talking about "a temporary suspension."

Gen. Balusha said Hamas had offered Yasser Arafat's authority a plan for "a return to calm," but that it had been rejected.

Palestinian police chief General Nasr Yussef warned the Palestinian opposition against any attempt to try to sabotage an agreement under negotiation with Israel to extend autonomy across the West Bank.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad have spearheaded armed resistance to Israeli occupation and the autonomy deal in a series of suicide bombings and other attacks which have left 815 people dead since self-rule began in Gaza in May 1994.

Mr. Arafat's authority has repeatedly arrested suspects after the attacks leading to serious tension with opposition movements.

However, in Damascus, Hamas vowed Wednesday to work against the new timetable agreed between Israel and the PLO for an army redeployment on the West Bank.

"We consider the latest accord as null and void because it strengthens the Zionist occupation and colonisation of our land, while isolating Palestinian villages," the group wanted in a statement.

"The Palestinian authorities' acceptance of a staggered redeployment of Israeli forces and the linking of implementation of the clauses of this accord to Zionist security constitute serious concessions made to the enemy."

Egyptian scientists fight against bilharzia

CAIRO (AFP) — Scientists are to begin tests on human tissue in Egypt in the search for a vaccine against bilharzia, a lethal parasitic worm that threatens some 600 million people, experts here said.

The in-lab tests in September will pave the way for experiments of the most effective vaccines on human subjects to start in March, Nabil Galal, an official with the Egyptian Schistosomiasis Research Project (SRP), told AFP.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) chose Egypt as the site for the experiments, while tests of vaccines on volunteers will be conducted in Egypt, Kenya and Brazil, where, along with Sudan, the worm is most rampant, Mr. Galal said.

Almost 200 million people in 76 countries suffer from bilharzia, also known as schistosomiasis, caused by four species of worm which live in tiny water molluscs, according to the WHO.

The parasite penetrates the skin of its host then settles in the circulatory system or in the gut, where it can grow to enormous lengths, damaging the liver, bladder and intestines.

The bilharzia worm kills more than 200,000 people a year and threatens some 600 million people living near lakes, rivers and canals.

Egypt, which puts \$9 to \$12 million annually into the fight against the parasite, has managed to reduce its spread from 40 per cent of the population in 1983 to 11.2 per cent in 1993, SRP figures said.

Egypt's rural areas, with their stagnant irrigation canals, are most affected. Half of those with the disease are rural children, while farmers make up much of the remainder.

The United States has spent \$40 million — \$18 million of which has gone to Egypt — since 1989 on research into a vaccine to replace the current treatment, discovered in 1984, which does not prevent the parasite's return.

The human tissue tests will be conducted on six vaccines prepared in France, the U.S. and Brazil, where tests on animals have granted up to 60 per cent immunity, Mr. Galal said.

Egypt has two vaccines of its own to test and will have seven more prepared within a month, he added.

Biochemist Omar Karim, who is working on six vaccines, said his experiments, aimed at gastric bilharzia, caused by the Schistosoma mansoni worm which is blamed for two-thirds of all cases in Egypt.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
14:00	Back to the Future
14:30	Harry and the Hendersons
15:00	Road to Avonlea
15:30	Families
16:00	Children's programme — Sprou
17:30	Doc — C'est Pas Sorcier
18:00	Drama
19:00	News in French
19:15	Magazine — Fant Pas Rever
19:30	New Headlines
19:35	First Flights
20:00	Major Dad
20:30	The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15	Dr. Quinn-Medicine Woman
22:00	News in English
22:25	Film: "Red Spider"
23:30	Fortunate Pilgrim

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Lubbadheh	663595
Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub	779797
Dr. Arafat Al Ashab	602507
Dr. Mohammad Al Shabaki	723222
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Naioukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	649495
Shamsani pharmacy	637650
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Ali Al Shoaibi	246140
Alquds pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Randa Shahin	995710
Khalil pharmacy	985417

PRAYER TIMES	
04:27	Fajr
05:53	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:41	Dhuhr
16:20	'Asr
19:29	Maghreb
21:54	'Isha

WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Relative warm weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	22 / 34
Aqaba	26 / 41
Deserts	19 / 36
Jordan Valley	25 / 40
Yesterday's high temperatures:	
Amman 33, Aqaba 40 Humidity	

JORDAN DEFENCE DEPARTMENT	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Rescue Police (P2 02111)	637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	643402
Traffic Police	896391
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605900
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	767111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	774111
Radio Jordan	660101
Water Authority	660101
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	06-53201

AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:45	Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
06:00	Damascus (RJ)
06:30	New Delhi (RJ)
06:50	Aqaba (RJ)
07:10	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
07:30	Beirut (RJ)
07:45	Aba Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
08:00	Colombo (RJ)
08:15	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
08:30	London (RJ)
08:45	Istanbul (RJ)
09:00	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
09:15	London (RJ)
09:30	Larnaca (RJ)
09:45	Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
10:00	Paris (RJ)
10:15	Bahrein, Doha (RJ)
10:30	Aba Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
10:45	London (RJ)
11:00	Beirut (RJ)
11:15	Rome (RJ)
11:30	Vicenza (RJ)
11:45	Bahrain (RJ)
12:00	Damascus (RJ)
12:15	London (RJ)
12:30	Damascus (RJ)
12:45	Damascus (RJ)

HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN



Spectators pack the playground of the Zarqa High School to watch Qatari singer Ali Abdul Sattar Thursday night during the first Zarqa Festival of Culture and Arts

Islamists clash with authorities over protest of Zarqa public festival

By Khaled Kasasbeh
Special to the Jordan Times

Zarqa — In the first Festival of Culture and Arts here, Islamists Thursday clashed with the government for holding activities that they see as being "in contradiction with religious teachings."

In a memorandum signed by a large number of Zarqans, the Islamists said that the festival, which began Wednesday, includes activities that violate Islamic principles and teachings referring to dancing parties in which Jordanian and Arab singers are participating.

Witnesses said IAF members here distributed the memorandum as people entered the festival area.

Security sources said that one of the "extremists" tried to "wreak havoc" in the first day of the festival during the performance of Qatari

singer Ali Abdul Sattar.

They said early interrogations with the "extremist" whose name was not revealed, showed that he had planned with other partners, to cut off electricity to sabotage the festival.

Police later sent reinforcements and conducted strict inspections at all entrances.

Hundreds of policemen were seen covering the area. The Islamists, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party members in particular, made several attempts in the past to block efforts by the government to hold the festival in Zarqa and sought to at least change the venue.

The festival is held at an arena next to Shubeib Castle, 20 metres away from a mosque.

IAF Zarqa deputies met with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker last week and asked him to have the venue of the festival

changed to an area away from the mosque.

Head of the festival's committee Mohammad Zawahreh said Zarqa Governor Misliah Tarawneh had asked him to change the location of the festival. But Mr. Zawahreh said he insisted on the original site, but agreed to move it from the western to the eastern arena, 200 metres away from the mosque.

Observers say that since the recent defeat of the Islamist candidates in the country's first municipal elections, as well as their loss of poor showing in the Chamber of Commerce elections, has spurred discontent and anger among their constituency.

This confrontation at the festival is said to be the third between the government and Zarqa Islamists during the past two months.

German minister to arrive for talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany Carl-Dieter Spranger is due in Amman on Aug. 23 for a four-day visit, according to the German Embassy in Amman.

An embassy statement said Mr. Spranger, who will be arriving here after a visit to the Palestinian self-rule area of Jericho, will hold talks with the ministers of planning, foreign affairs and water and irrigation as well as with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker before being received by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.



Carl-Dieter Spranger

Before leaving Jordan for Syria on Aug. 26, Mr. Spranger will visit the ancient city of Petra, the statement said.

Finance symposium to review effect of economic restructuring on farming

Amman (Petra) — A three-day symposium on financing agricultural development in the Arab World to be held here on Aug. 29, will look at the impact of economic restructuring programmes on the agricultural sector, according to Director of the Amman-based Regional Office of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) Abdul Hamid Kayed.

Dr. Kayed said the symposium will focus on financing and development policies in force and their reflections on agricultural development levels in the region.

He added that the symposium aims to brief participants on the latest developments in the area of financing regional agricultural projects and share regional

experiences in the area of financing agricultural projects.

The symposium will also review the impact of the economic reform and structural adjustment programmes on financial flow directed to agricultural development projects, and identify the role of national, regional and international institutions in financing Arab agricultural projects.

Participants will discuss roles of such institutions in working out investment projects and reviewing methods capable of enabling the private sector to benefit from development loans, granted by national, regional and international financing institutions, Dr. Kayed said.

Jordan marks 43rd anniversary of King's accession to throne

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Friday celebrated the 43rd anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne.

On August 11, 1952 the then 17-year-old prince became the King of Jordan. Jordanians mark the anniversary of the accession in commemoration of the achievements witnessed in the Kingdom under the leadership of King Hussein, most prominent of which, was the restoration of occupied Jordanian lands and usurped water resources through the Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed last October.

At the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit due in October, the Kingdom will seek to encourage development and investments in economic fields in order to reap benefits for Jordan as well as the region, the agency said.

In celebrating the anniversary, Jordanians commemo-



rate the King's untiring efforts to make Jordan into a model democratic state and to achieve Arab solidarity. On the occasion, the Ministry of Post and Communications announced that it had circulated commemorative stamps to local post offices. The stamps, depicting various archaeological sites in the Kingdom, come in 50, 75, 80, 160 and 200 fils denominations, said a ministry statement.

King Hussein received cables of good wishes from heads of state and from Jordanian leaders and heads of organisations.

'Jordan, Israel to discuss property issue'

Amman (J.T.) — Jordan will insist in its future negotiations with Israel over the issue of refugees that property belonging to Jordanian citizens in Israel be recognised as such, Ambassador to Tel Aviv Marwan Muasher said.

Dr. Muasher said in an interview with Al Dustour Arabic daily that the Israeli law that endorsed the Jordan-Israel peace treaty on Nov. 10, 1994 has recognised any property owned by Jordanians after that date.

Property owned before that date by Jordanians of Palestinian origin who became refugees after the 1948 war would continue,

according to the Israeli law, to be considered property of absentees.

"Jordan will not accept that," said Dr. Muasher. "We will insist on discussing the assets of the absentees and the total situation of the refugees including their right to return or be compensated" in accordance with UN resolutions.

Dr. Muasher said Jordan, Israel, Egypt and the Palestinians started discussions over the fate of 1967 refugees, commonly known as displaced persons, early this year.

The refugee issue, Dr. Muasher said, will be discussed as soon as Israel and

the Palestinians start final status talks on the refugees and Jerusalem.

Dr. Muasher arrived here Thursday to discuss with Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti and senior officials the status of current and future Jordanian-Israeli relations.

Dr. Muasher is expected to report on his talks with Israeli officials concerning the recent Israeli court ruling that allows Jews to enter and pray at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

Dr. Muasher said that explained to Israeli officials the serious consequences of violations of the sanctity of holy places in Jerusalem.

Country's first group wedding costs only JD1,400

Amman (AFP) — More than 1,500 people Thursday attended the first group wedding in the history of the Kingdom at which four couples took their vows. The cost of the entire event, held at the Yarmouk Club, came to an approximate JD1,400.

Organised by Al Afaf Charity Society, the objective of this arrangement "is to facilitate marriages and establish a new outlook on marriages based on good traditions taken from our religious teachings and Arab ethics," said Senator Abdul Latif Arabiyat, the society's president.

The concept also seeks to make marriage affordable to those who might otherwise find the costs prohibitive. Al Afaf society, established in 1993, offers its matchmaking services free of charge. It provides financial support in the form of loans, in cooperation with the Islamic Bank. The amount of the loans ranges between JD 500 and JD 1,000. Applicants simply need to complete an application form and submit a photo. The society has facilitated marriages and given financial assistance to more than 90 couples.

A study carried out by the University of Jordan showed that single men between the ages of 25 and 30 made up 30 per cent of the population, while single women between the ages of 20 and 25 were estimated to be 60 per cent.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FUHEIS FESTIVAL

* Concert by Odeh Zyadat at the main theatre at 9:00 p.m.

* Several exhibitions on Jordan's tourism sector, Karak, the late Jordanian prime minister, Wasfi Tal, Al Ra'i Arabic daily's 25th anniversary, Germany's struggle against fascism, Orthodox churches, abstract, and children art.

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings by "Pioneers of the Fifties" Isma'il and Suzanne Al Sheikhly, Khalid Qassab, and Dr. Nuri Behjet at Orfali Art Gallery, Umam Utheina.

* Paintings by Aneta Traikova at Alia Art Gallery.

* "Exhibition of Chinese Products '95," at Al Bassam Hall, King Abdullah Gardens.

* Exhibition demonstrating the developments of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

Apology to Majali ends controversy — observers

'Revival of land sales to Israelis issue is a way of trying to undermine peace process'

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

Amman — An advertisement placed in a local paper by the Nazareth-based Kul Al Arab newspaper this week apologising for printing an article accusing former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali of leasing land to Israelis was seen by some experts as the end of a seven-month-old controversy. Others, however, said it was just the beginning of a new one.

In the advertisement Kul Al Arab acknowledged that its news report, published Jan. 13, was baseless and fabricated. The paper said the report, which accused Dr. Majali of leasing, and members of the Majali family of selling land to Israelis before the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, was based on fabricated information that was leaked by unreliable sources.

"After close examination and verification of the information published in the report it became clear that the item was leaked by some people who seek to ruin Dr. Majali's reputation," said the apology which was run as a front page advertisement in Al Dustour Arabic daily last Saturday. "We would like to

apologise to the Prime Minister and to his family for any harm done to their good reputation," the advertisement said.

"Everyone who knows Dr. Majali knows that these allegations and lies could not possibly be true." Shortly after the resignation of Dr. Majali's government on Jan. 8 Kul Al Arab published the report.

But according to sources close to the newspaper, its chief editor, Samih Qassem, and its publisher, Musa Hasadih were in Amman at the time the story was printed.

The paper tried to make up for the story. "In addition to apologising, the newspaper ran a full-page interview with one member of the Majali family, Sa'ad Majali, a pilot. "What made things worse was the broadcasting of the report on Israeli television," said the source.

On Jan. 14, a day after the Kul Al Arab report was published, Dr. Majali's brother, Lower House of Parliament Deputy Abdul Hadi Majali immediately denied the information carried in the report and contacted lawyers in the West Bank to



Abdul Salam Majali

file a lawsuit against the paper.

"We protested to the paper on the publication of fabricated information and insisted on filing a lawsuit," Mr. Majali said.

"I haven't had any contact with my lawyer during this period, and we are still studying the option of whether to drop the case," especially after the publication of the apology.

According to Sultan Kharab, a columnist for Al Ra'i daily, the information on Jordanians leasing or selling Jordanian land to Israelis



Abdul Hadi Majali

was published in a book entitled "Palestine: from the 1948 Disaster to the State of Diaspora" and written by an Israeli before the 1967 war.

In the book, some Jordanian families, including the Majali and Fayed families, are said to have sold plots of land to Israelis during the 1920's and 1930's, when Jordan was still the Emirate of Transjordan.

According to Mr. Kharab, the information was dismissed by Ehud Ya'ari, a political analyst for the Israeli daily Yediot Ahranot. Mr. Ya'ari also works for

Israel Television. The story is "baseless" and is targeted at damaging peace efforts between Jordanians and Israelis.

Head of the Lands and Survey Department Ali Gharabeh confirmed that Israelis do not own land in Jordan, and that all records show that Jordanian land is owned only by Jordanians.

"Land ownership was not registered in the past," Mr. Gharabeh said. "But according to our records, there is nothing that proves land sale to Israelis," at any time.

Some experts believed that raising the issue now was aimed at destroying peace efforts between Arabs and Israelis.

Al Dustour Chief Editor Nabeel Sharif said the reason behind publishing the advertisement "now, seven months after the controversial article was published, was a matter of technicalities."

Dr. Sharif said that the Majali family had sought a formal apology, and that was something that was not easy to do in a couple of days.

"Now it is over," Dr. Sharif said. "The publication of the apology has put

an end to the issue. It is a very positive step."

But Mr. Kharab, who is close to Dr. Majali, said that the publication of the apology at this time, especially after last week's endorsement of the laws to end the economic boycott against Israel by Parliament, was done with ulterior motives.

"The fact that the issue was brought up again now has serious implications," said Mr. Kharab. "The people who are doing this are targeting Dr. Majali himself and the Arab-Israeli peace process in general."

Deputy Majali said the persons behind the publication of such "rumours" are not West Bank residents but Jordanians. He also believed "they" sought to ruin the reputation of the Majali family in particular and the peace process in general.

"They are the enemies of peace. They intended to discredit Dr. Majali because he was the architect of peace," the deputy said.

Head of the Jordanian delegation to the Jordanian-Israeli talks on water Munther Haddadin said that such reports, as the Kul Al Arab story, aim at "shaking the confidence in our great country."

Saddam assails defectors

(Continued from page 1)

brought the Baath Party to power, Mr. Hassan was a child and was an officer with the rank of lieutenant when President Saddam Hussein took over as president in 1979.

Asked whether his defection would affect relations with the U.N. Special Commission disarming Iraq under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire, Mr. Aziz said:

"Hussein Kamel held the administrative responsibility for the military industrialisation and had nothing to do with the political decision pertinent to the dealing with

the (U.N.) Security Council or special commission.

"I represented and I still do so the leadership in administering this relation. Therefore there will be no change in the relation from the political point of view," Mr. Aziz said.

Mr. Aziz denied reports of "unusual military movements" in Iraq.

"President Saddam Hussein draws the prerequisites of his leadership from the love of the Iraqi people and his confidence in them and the (ruling) Arab Baath Socialist Party and not from certain individuals whether they are his relatives or not."

160 new contracting firms register in first 6 months of year — JCA

AMMAN (Petra) — At total of 160 new contracting firms registered with the Ministry of Public Works during the first half of 1995 marking a significant increase in this sector and bringing the total number of contracting establishments to 1,435 according to the President of the Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA) President Mohammad Murad Friday.

He said the registrations followed the association's drive to enforce a law prohibiting any person or persons from

conducting contracting work unless the entity was licensed with the ministry.

Mr. Murad estimated the total capital of registered contracting companies in the Kingdom to be JD 145 million. His estimate of these companies' work in progress for the public and private sectors was about JD 792 million.

Mr. Murad said the credit facilities offered to the contracting sector amounted to nearly JD 718 million.

He said that despite the reduction in

the government's overall volume of contracting projects this year compared to last year the Jordanian contracting sector employs 60,000 workers, and contributes by nearly 18 per cent to the gross national product (GNP).

He said the contracting sector is involved in most of the 27 projects which the Jordanian government plans to submit to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference due in Amman in October.

Spain describes foiling plot to kill Juan Carlos as big blow to ETA

MADRID (R) — The Spanish government on Friday described the foiling of an ETA plot to kill King Juan Carlos on the holiday island of Majorca as an important blow against the Basque separatist guerrillas.

"It was a very important operation," Interior Ministry State Secretary Margarita Robles told a radio interviewer, noting that it followed recent successful police action against ETA groups in Navarre, Barcelona and in southern France.

"Certainly the last few months have been very positive for the fight against terrorism," Ms. Robles said. She suggested that the increasing weakness of ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) was driving the guerrillas to desperate measures.

"I think they are at their lowest ebb and for that reason they have to try plans like Majorca to show they are still strong," Ms. Robles said. Police in Majorca on Wednesday night arrested three ETA militants with documents and equipment indicating they were planning to kill the king.

They had rented an apartment near the Marivent Royal Palace just outside the island's capital of Palma and with a view over the harbour where the royal yacht was moored.

Police seized explosives and weapons, including a rifle with telescopic sight, and documents showing the guerrillas had made a detailed study of the movements of the royal family to and from their holiday home.

A total of 12 other people were arrested on Thursday in the French and Spanish Basque country in related police swoops.

Interior Minister Juan Alberto Belloch told a news conference on Thursday night the government believed the king was the principal target.

"The information arising from the arrests allows us to say that the main objective of this ETA commando was to carry out an attack on the king," he said.

But Mr. Belloch did not rule out the possibility that the guerrillas might also have been preparing an attack on a summit meeting of European Union (EU) of state and government scheduled in Majorca in September. Spain currently holds the presidency of the 15-nation union.

Like Ms. Robles, the minister said ETA, who have killed some 800 people in a 27-year campaign for an independent Basque state, appeared to be turning to bigger targets to catch the limelight and force the government to negotiate.

He urged unity between all political parties to combat the guerrillas "because they do have the capacity to kill."

Mr. Belloch said police, helped by French authorities, had followed the movements of the ETA group led by 53-year-old Jose Rego Vidal for some nine months. They were under constant surveillance from the moment they arrived in Majorca by yacht on July 17.

Mr. Rego, a long-standing ETA militant, has a history



A police officer leads Jose Rego Vidal to a minibus on their way to the airport August 10 after the three-member commando of the Basque separatist group ETA was arrested overnight here where Spain's King Juan Carlos is vacationing. Police said they still do not know what the trio had been planning but added that documents seized on them showed they had been following the movements of the royal family and of former Premier Adolfo Suarez (AFP photo)

of involvement in plots against the royal family.

In 1974 he was connected with a failed plan to kidnap the king's father, Don Juan de Borbon, in Monte Carlo and five years later he was jailed for a year for involvement in a conspiracy to attack

Juan Carlos himself.

Police and newspaper files show that the royal family have been shadowed by ETA several times in the past 20 years but on no occasion have the guerrillas been able to carry through an attack.

South, North Koreans hold talks on seized rice ship

SEOUL (R) — Officials from North and South Korea met in Beijing on Friday in a bid to secure the return of a southern rice-aid ship and 21 crew held by the North on spy charges, a South Korean unification ministry spokesman said Friday.

"A meeting started last night and is still continuing," the spokesman said. "The meeting is likely to go on tomorrow and we are making our utmost efforts to secure the release of the Sam-sun Venus and its crew," he said.

The domestic Yonhap news agency said the talks were making progress but the spokesman said he had no details.

Kim Hyung-Ki, the South's assistant unification minister for information and analysis, arrived in Beijing Thursday to try to contact a Northern representative.

South Korea's state radio said Mr. Kim was now meeting Lee Song-Dok, a senior member of North Korea's committee for the promotion of external economic cooperation.

Vice Unification Minister Song Young-Dae was quoted by Yonhap as telling a cabinet meeting he believed the North would soon repatriate the ship and its crew.

The ship is the second Southern vessel in Pong-yang's custody after patrol boats seized a trawler with eight crew aboard off the west coast peninsula in May.

Under an accord signed in Beijing last June, South Korea is supplying 150,000

tonnes of free rice to the North to ease what Seoul says is a chronic food shortage and to improve ties. Half already has been shipped to the North.

On Wednesday, North Korea abruptly told the South it would shelve a third round of talks on rice aid due to have opened in Beijing on Thursday.

The North accused a crewman on the ship of illegally photographing port facilities when the ship docked at Chongjin a week ago and said he admitted spying.

The Sam-sun Venus, which unloaded 5,000 tonnes of rice at Chongjin, was to have left the North last Sunday.

Seoul announces sweeping amnesty

In another development Friday, South Korea announced a sweeping clemency order, benefiting prominent politicians and businessmen, to mark the end of World War II 50 years ago which liberated the country from Japan's harsh colonial rule.

Justice Minister Ahn Woo-Mahn said the clemency for 3,169 people would include 10 politicians, the founder of the giant Hyundai conglomerate Chung Ju-Yung, chairman Kim Woo-Chong of the Daewoo business group and 20 other businessmen.

The amnesty applied mainly to those convicted of non-violent crimes such as corruption.

"President Kim Young-

Sam, marking the historic 50th anniversary of liberation... has decided to make a clemency order benefiting a total of 3,169 people," Mr. Ahn said.

He said the amnesty was to allow as many people as possible to take part in "a new leap forward" in national development and to celebrate the anniversary as an important turning point for the nation.

Mr. Ahn said 1,867 of the prisoners would be freed from jail on Aug. 15, the 50th anniversary of liberation from Japan's rule over Korea that lasted from 1910-45.

Another 426 prisoners will have their terms reduced while the rest, who have already been freed, will now have their civil rights fully restored.

Without official clemency, prisoners freed without completing their terms or those who have had their sentences suspended are barred from voting or running for offices.

Among prominent politicians benefiting from the order was Park Chul-Un, a powerful relative of ex-President Roh Tae-Woo, who was convicted of accepting bribes in November 1993.

Mr. Park, a lawmaker until he was found guilty of receiving 600 million won (\$790,000) from the nation's slot-machine "godfather" Chung Dok-Jin in return for persuading authorities to allow Mr. Chung to evade taxes, was released on parole several months ago. He can now run freely for elected office.

Study urges Germany to let shops stay open late

BONN, Germany (AP) — A government-commissioned study released Friday recommended that German shops be allowed to stay open until 10 p.m. on weekdays and 6 p.m. on Saturdays. The long-awaited study by the Munich-based IFO Institute for Economic Research was expected to spark a heated debate in Germany, where many defend the current early closing hours as necessary to protect small shopkeepers and the family lives of retail workers. Germany has the tightest store-closing hours in Europe — 6:30 p.m. on normal weekdays and 2 p.m. Saturdays, with a few extra hours on Thursdays and some Saturdays. Pressure has been building to modernise the law in order to create more jobs in the retail sector, stimulate the economy with more buying, and accommodate increasing number of workers doing evening and weekend shifts. Parliament is expected to change the law in its next session, which starts in September.

Belgian arrested for pedophilia in Philippines

MANILA (AFP) — A Belgian national was arrested in a resort town just outside the Philippine capital for suspected pedophilia, immigration bureau agents said here Thursday. The suspect, identified as Felix Vanden Haes, 57, a resident of the resort town of Pagsanjan, was arrested late Wednesday in the company of young children. Several photographs allegedly showing the suspect engaged in intimate acts with children were confiscated and will be used as evidence against him, the agents said. The suspect had reportedly taken a number of children under his care, paying their poor parents to let him stay with them. The government has been on an active campaign to catch foreign pedophiles following news reports that many of them were coming to this country to take advantage of "child prostitutes." A British, a Frenchman and an Australian man have been jailed in the Philippines, where they face imprisonment of up to 40 years as a current government crackdown on child abuse and pedophilia continues, a state prosecutor said.

Argentine flight attendant sucked out of plane

BUENOS AIRES (R) — An Argentine flight attendant was sucked out of an airplane over the high Andes on Wednesday when the rear door blew open, police in the city of Cordoba said. Police mountain rescue teams were searching for the body of 26-year-old Lilian Almada in the Altas Cumbres Range of the Andes near Cordoba after the accident on a domestic Inter-Austral flight. Police did not know the make of the airplane involved.

What a load of garbage

TOKYO (R) — Japan spent 1.85 trillion yen (\$20.3 billion) to dispose of garbage in the fiscal year which ended in March 1993. Kyoto news service said. According to the Ministry of Health and Welfare, that meant 14,800 yen (\$162) per person was spent on disposing of garbage, up 15.6 per cent from previous fiscal year. Kyoto said Japan faces a growing problem with garbage because of a lack of disposal facilities and government officials say drastic steps must be taken to reduce the volume of garbage, particularly in Tokyo.

Relief at end of French strike over toilet breaks

PARIS (R) — About 250 relieved workers at a French slaughterhouse ended a strike after partial victory over their boss's decree that they had to go to the toilet at fixed times or lose pay. Staff in the "pepe break" dispute at the plan in Quimperle, northwest France, were still threatening legal action over restrictions on going to the lavatory outside a newly imposed five-minute breaks three times a day. The strike ended when the plant's owner abandoned a plan to dock 50 francs (\$10) from a worker's holiday bonus if he or she spent too long in the washroom or went at the wrong time.

Chechens accuse Russia of violating military accord

GROZNY (AFP) — The Chechen separatists Friday accused Russia of flagrantly violating the joint military accord signed less than two weeks ago and of preventing their delegation from attending peace talks here.

Akhmed Zakayev, culture minister in the breakaway Chechen government, accused the Russians of preparing a new military offensive despite an agreement under the military accord to begin disarmament on both sides.

"The Chechen side has incontrovertible evidence that the Russian side is using the talks process to regroup its forces and prepare for a major attack all along the front-line," he said.

He said there were cases of Russian forces opening up artillery fire on populated areas of the small Caucasus republic.

Zakayev also said the Chechen delegation was halted Friday at a Russian military post near Roshni Chu, about 60 kilometres southwest of Grozny on its way to the talks.

The row has been one of the most serious since negotiations began, although Mr. Zakayev said talks would continue Saturday.

On Thursday, the Chechens walked out of talks to protest what they said

were Russian violations.

NTV television said talks restarted shortly after, when the Russian side apologised for blocking the Chechen delegation at a Russian post.

The Chechens had said they were suspending talks because the Russians were not adhering to the prisoners exchange accord.

On Friday, Mr. Zakayev said that "the Russian side is continuing flagrantly to violate the accord."

"The government delegation of Ichkeria and the members of the specially appointed (military) commission were again held up at a military post near Roshni Chu village."

"The Russian side is also undermining fulfilment of various points of the accord, notably the exchange of forcibly detained people, on the principle of all for all."

The chief Russian representative at talks on prisoner releases, Colonel Vladimir Ivanov, said he gave Chechen separatists details about more than 90 captured Russian soldiers but the Chechens had presented a list of only five.

A shaky ceasefire has been

in effect since June 20, when the peace process began, but frequent violations have been reported by both sides.

Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudaev, believed to be less than fully behind the peace deal with the Russians, issued a decree Aug. 2 that officially created "a regular army."

The rebels already claimed their rag-tag forces, which put up a fierce resistance against the Russian army for more than six months, was an official army, but the timing of the latest decree was seen as provocative.

"It proves a peaceful path is impossible for Dudaev," said head Russian negotiator Vyacheslav Mikhailov, quoted by ITAR-TASS.

Mr. Mikhailov, accompanied by Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov, left for Grozny from Moscow to restart high-level negotiations with the Chechens, although the exact timing was not known.

Since the military accord July 30, talks have been at technical commission level. Tens of thousands of Russian troops stormed into Chechnya Dec. 11 to crush a three-year independence bid led by Mr. Dudaev. Between 15,000 and 30,000 people have been killed, a fraction of them civilians.

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — France has agreed in principle to allow European Commission (EC) experts to observe its planned nuclear tests in the South Pacific and will meet the EU executive soon to discuss the tests' effects.

"The French government has proposed that this meeting should take place before the end of this month," commission spokesman Costas Verros told a news conference.

"We can say we are satisfied because the French government has accepted the commission's request to organise an experts' meeting. The French government has also accepted the principle of an on-site mission and of access by that mission to the installation (at the test site)," Mr. Verros said.

"We are going to suggest having the meeting next week," he added.

France announced in June its decision to stage up to eight underground nuclear tests between September and May next year on Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific.

The move, widely condemned by environmentalists, provoked a diplomatic ruckus with Australia, New Zealand and several of France's partners within the 15-country European Union (EU).

Paris says it needs the tests to perfect computer simulation techniques for future, non-explosive testing of warheads.

Commission involvement

France agrees to allow EU observers at Pacific nuclear tests

in the tests procedure stems from the requirement in the EU's nuclear treaty for countries to keep the EU executive informed of the environmental and health effects of their nuclear tests.

The commission is still mulling over the question of whether it has the legal power to do anything more than observe the tests. No decision is expected before September.

In Sydney, Australia's prime minister and foreign minister were striving Friday to find a common line on France's reported plan to shut down the Mururoa nuclear test site next year after a series of tests.

As the diplomatic wrangling continued, at least 14 vessels were underway preparing to "cast off" from Mururoa to protest the proposed series of French nuclear tests.

Foreign Minister Gareth Evans admitted Friday that what had been hailed by Australia as a victory over the French government on its nuclear testing programme was nothing of the sort.

Earlier Friday, Prime Minister Paul Keating said he accepted at "face value" the French promise to shut the

Mururoa Pacific test site after the planned series of eight underground tests starting next month.

Evans, however, told reporters in Melbourne that the statement on U.S. radio that the French government intended to close the test site in May did not reflect the real position.

He was referring to a statement by French foreign ministry official Yves Dourloux on Wednesday that France would stop all forms of nuclear testing and close its Mururoa facility once it had finished its latest test programme in the South Pacific.



French Ambassador to the U.N. in Geneva Gerard Errera (right) speaks to the press at the U.N.-disarmament conference in Geneva, August 10. Errera declared that France will continue its planned nuclear bomb test till May 1996 (AFP photo)

Suu Kyi has line for talks with military

RANGOON (R) — Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi said Friday she had a line of communication with the military government but declined to say if progress had been made towards dialogue she has called for.

"We do have a line of communication with the authorities but until we think it is the right time I'd rather not comment on it," she told a news conference at her Rangoon home.

Ms. Suu Kyi, released from nearly six years of house arrest on July 10, did not say if there had been any talks with the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

After her release, Ms. Suu Kyi called for dialogue with the military, stressing the need for national reconciliation between the military and the opposition, including the democracy movement and autonomy-seeking ethnic minorities.

Ms. Suu Kyi said she was encouraged that her supporters had done nothing which might harm the chance of negotiations with SLORC.

"We had indicated last

month that our intention was to get to the negotiating table and that nothing should be done that would in any way disturb this process," she said.

She pointed out that there were no disturbances last Tuesday, the seventh anniversary of a bloody crackdown on protesters during a failed six-month pro-democracy uprising which swept the country in 1988.

"This is a sign of the maturity and discipline of the people," Ms. Suu Kyi said. She said she was pleased with the state of the National League for Democracy (NLD) Party, which she co-founded in 1988. "There's a lot of solidarity and unity within the NLD. We allow people to disagree. We are more united now."

The NLD swept more than 80 per cent of the seats in 1990 elections, even though Ms. Suu Kyi and other top party leaders were already in detention.

The SLORC ignored the election outcome and launched a sweeping crackdown on all opposition to its rule.

Vietnamese official to visit U.S.

HANOI (AFP) — A top Vietnamese Communist Party official is to tour the United States from Saturday in the highest level visit since the two countries normalised relations last month. Hong Ha, chairman of the Communist Party external relations commission and a member of the central committee secretariat, will visit San Francisco, Atlanta, Washington and New York to hold meetings with U.S. officials and think-tanks.

A former journalist and now a leading figure behind Vietnam's foreign relations, Mr. Ha was invited to tour the United States for 10 days by the Ford Foundation, which has organised a series of visits by top Vietnamese officials.

Mr. Ha will meet State Department and Pentagon officials and hold discussions with members of the Council of Foreign Relations in New York, according to Mark Sidel, Ford Foundation programme officer for Vietnam.

Savimbi says Angolan war is over

LUANDA (R) — UNITA rebel leader Jonas Savimbi said on Friday that Angola's 19-year civil war was over and the Angolan news agency said he would become vice-president in a coalition government.

"There are still (military) actions which I see as minor incidents on the road (to peace)."

"As political will is the determining factor, I consider that the war... is over and we want to go forward to consolidate peace and to create the conditions for national reconciliation," Mr. Savimbi told Gabon-based Africa Numero 1 radio.

Angola's state news agency Angop reported earlier that Mr. Savimbi had accepted an invitation to become one of Angola's vice-presidents during talks with Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos in Gabon on Thursday. But Angop said Savimbi had told Mr. Dos Santos dur-

ing the talks in the Gabonese town of Franceville the invitation should be extended to his movement UNITA, not to him personally.

"We (UNITA) accepted the offer. But the formal offer should be sent to UNITA, not to Jonas Savimbi. We will wait for the formal letter of invitation," Angop quoted the UNITA leader as telling reporters after the meeting.

"What will happen if I die?" the UNITA leader added, when asked why the invitation be formally sent to his movement.

A peace accord signed between UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) and the Luanda government last November brought a tenuous end to 19 years of civil war that devastated the country, killed at least 500,000 people and drove a third of its 10 million population from their

homes.

Mr. Dos Santos told Africa Numero 1 on Friday that the wartime rivals had started the difficult process towards peace but said national reconciliation was no longer a dream.

"We have begun a difficult process... there have been (military) actions but the scope of these actions cannot be compared with what he lived through about a year ago."

"The government undertakes to be serious in carrying out its undertakings in the conviction that peace... and national reconciliation will no longer be a dream but a reality in the coming months," the Angolan president said.

Mr. Dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi met in Franceville, 530 kilometres southeast of Gabon's capital Libreville, to try to hammer out a rebel leader's role in a future

government, forming a single national army, and the establishment of a government with significant participation by UNITA.

Diplomats said demobilisation of an estimated 75,000 UNITA guerrillas and around 100,000 Angolan armed forces along with the creation of a single 70,000-strong army were among the greatest obstacles to peace.

The Angolan parliament passed a constitutional amendment in July to pave the way for two vice-presidents, one of whom was expected to be Mr. Savimbi. But the ruling MPLA party had insisted Mr. Savimbi take over the post only if he disbanded the UNITA army.

Apart from sporadic outbreaks of fighting, Angola has been peaceful since the November peace accord and the United Nations has sent in the first units of a 7,600-strong peacekeeping force.

N.I. weeks

BELFAST (R) — Ireland police security forces are on high alert for the weekend to prevent at least two possible IRA attacks. The IRA has been active in the past few weeks, with a series of attacks in the north of Ireland. The police are expecting a large number of IRA members to be in the area for the weekend. The IRA has been active in the past few weeks, with a series of attacks in the north of Ireland. The police are expecting a large number of IRA members to be in the area for the weekend.

Leakey rally b

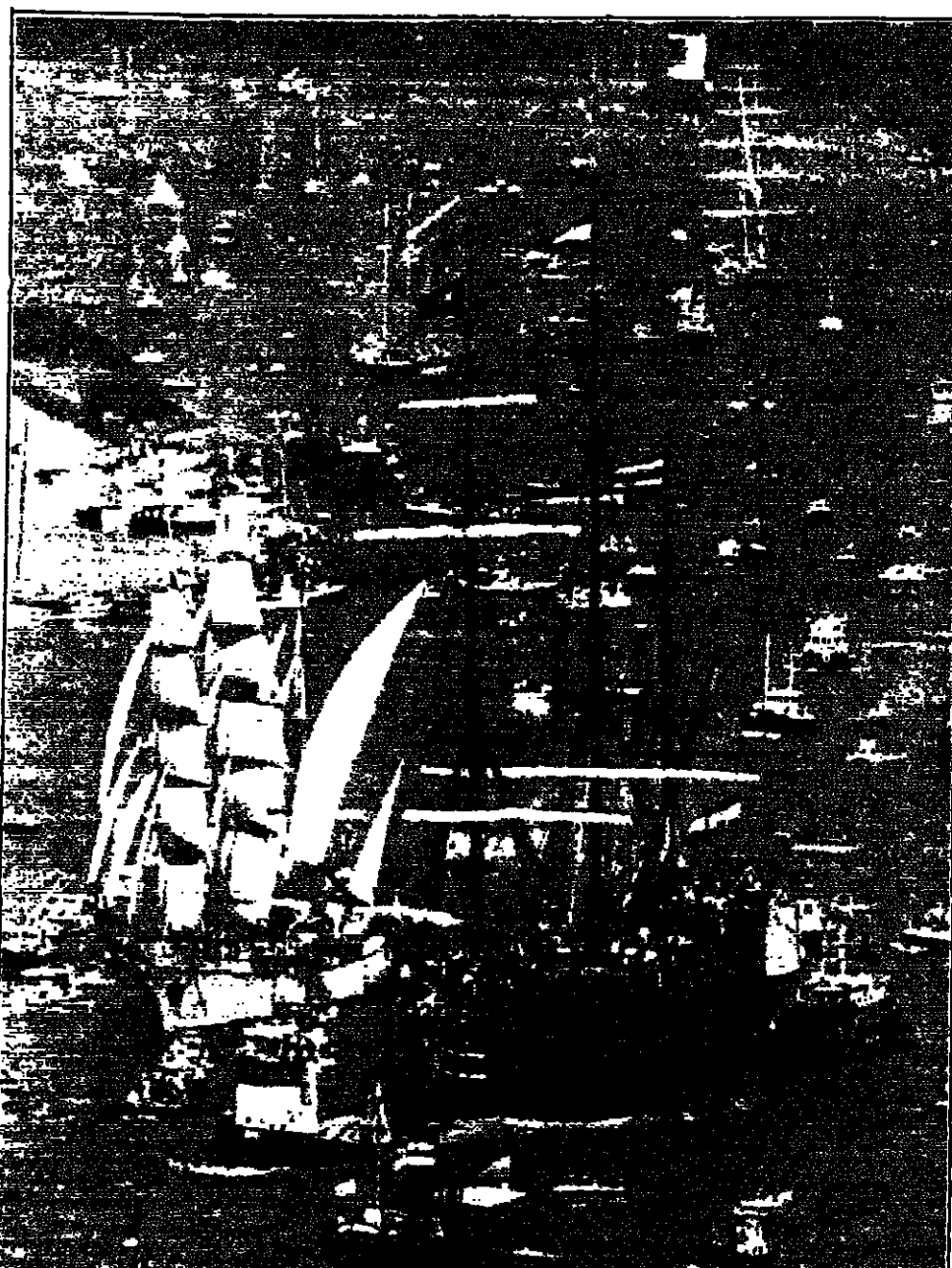
NAIROBI (AFP) — Police charged Friday a white center-right party leader Richard Leakey and other members of his party had tried to rally in the center of Nairobi before being stopped by police. The police said the rally was a violation of the law. The police are expecting a large number of Leakey supporters to be in the area for the rally. The Leakey party has been active in the past few weeks, with a series of rallies in the north of Kenya. The police are expecting a large number of Leakey supporters to be in the area for the rally.

Study urges
Germany to
shops stay open

SONN, Germany (AP) — A government commission released Friday a study that urged that shops be allowed to stay open on Saturdays. The study, which was commissioned by the German government, found that shops that stay open on Saturdays are more successful than those that close. The study also found that shops that stay open on Saturdays are more popular with customers. The study was released by the German government's Commission on the Future of Retail Trade. The commission's report found that shops that stay open on Saturdays are more successful than those that close. The study also found that shops that stay open on Saturdays are more popular with customers. The study was released by the German government's Commission on the Future of Retail Trade.

Belgian arrests
for pedophilia
Philippines

ANILA (AFP) — A national was arrested in a resort town just outside Manila for alleged pedophilia. The man, who was 35 years old, was arrested by police on Thursday. He was accused of having sexual relations with a 12-year-old girl. The girl's mother reported the incident to the police. The man was arrested and is now in custody. The police are investigating the case.



PARADE OF SAIL: The Dutch three-masted bark started Thursday morning with the Parade of Europe (left) and the replica of the Dutch VOC ship Amsterdam meet each other in (photo). Amsterdam Aug. 10. Sail Amsterdam 1995

N. Irish police braced for weekend Protestant parades

BELFAST (R) — Northern Ireland police plan a major security operation at the weekend to prevent trouble at two potential flashpoints: parades by Protestants celebrating centuries-old battles. Hundreds of police will be deployed in Belfast and the province's second major city, Londonderry, when an estimated 25,000 Protestants take to the streets in what Catholic feel are provocative and inappropriate parades. The marches on Saturday take place against the background of deadlock in Anglo-Irish peace talks. A 25-year war to drive Britain from the province. Gerry Adams, president of the IRA's political wing, Sinn Féin, appealed to the Protestant "Orange" movement on Thursday to call off their dogs and join the peace process. The IRA has said it will follow by a similar decision by Protestant loyalist gunmen. Peace talks are held up by the refusal of guerrillas to start handing over their weapons until all-party talks on a settlement are convened by Britain and Ireland. The weekend marches are rich with the symbolism of Protestant domination of British-ruled Northern Ireland. Catholics say such shows of sectarianism are triumphalist and out of touch with the new era of peace. But organisers insist that they will go ahead with marches that commemorate an occasion in 1689 when apprentice boys — trainee craftsmen — closed the gates of Londonderry as Catholic King James II began a siege of the city. It lasted one year until

'Leakey tried to address rally before beating'

NAIROBI (AFP) — Kenyan police charged Friday that white conservationist Richard Leakey and other members of his opposition party had tried to address a rally in the central town of Nakuru before being beaten up Thursday by "angry members of the public." The attack, blamed by Leakey and other members of the Safina (Noah's Ark in Swahili) Party on ruling party youth wing, was condemned by opposition politicians and the Law Society of Kenya. The Safina members — and journalists, including a British woman — were attacked by thugs wielding rubber whips and pick-axe handles. Some were hospitalized, and cars were smashed. Mr. Leakey said the Safina team had gone to Nakuru, 160 kilometres dissident in jail, and denied that they had made any attempt to address a rally. Rift Valley police chief F.K.A. Sang issued a statement however saying the Safina members had not notified authorities of "the intended rally" and that this "made it difficult for police to offer protection or prevent the incidence of violence." He said he had launched an investigation and that appropriate action would be taken against those found to have contravened the law.

State television on Thursday evening showed part of a press conference by Mr. Leakey and other Safina Party members — he is the secretary general — but did show him removing his shirt to display a dozen livid scars.

Beijing executes 10 to ensure 'public order' at U.N. conference

BEIJING (AP) — More than 10 people convicted of murder, robbery and other crimes have been executed to ensure "public order" during next month's U.N. women's conference, the official Beijing daily reported Thursday. China's security forces have been rounding up dissidents and expelling job-seekers and peddlers coming into Beijing from the countryside as part of the pre-conference crackdown. "To safeguard the capital's public order and ensure good public order during the upcoming world women's conference, the municipal first intermediate court quickly handled a batch of criminal cases," the newspaper said. "After being approved by the higher level people's court, the executions were carried out." In recent days, the newspaper said, the condemned were led one by one to the killing ground. Criminals are usually put to death with a single gunshot to the head. Four of those executed had murdered six drivers to steal their cars, one killed to avenge a fight and another went on a spree of 59 robberies in which threatened people or tied them up. The U.N.'s fourth World Conference on Women runs Sept. 4-15. A 10-day meeting of private advocacy groups, the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) Forum, opens Aug. 30. Government officials have portrayed the conference as an opportunity to showcase China as a rising regional power. In the past few weeks, security forces have detained those political activists not already in custody. A private campaign demanding compensation for victims of Japanese atrocities during World War II has come under intense pressure. The leader, Tong Zeng, has been barred from attending an NGO forum discussion group on forced prostitution during the war. Police detained him Tuesday for 24 hours and warned him not to make trouble during the conference. The central and municipal governments also have ordered a crackdown on peasants coming into the city to find work. Tighter restrictions requiring temporary residents cards have been issued and police have set up check points around the city.

Rival groups in Kashmir clash; one militant killed

SRINAGAR, India (R) — A Kashmiri separatist was killed and a Muslim worshipper wounded in a clash between two rival militant groups at a historic Muslim shrine, police said on Friday. Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and Hizb-UL-Mujahideen fired at each other late on Thursday at the Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state, army officials said. Police said a JKLF militant was killed and a woman worshipper wounded in the three-hour-long clash which began at about 9:30 p.m. (1600 GMT). The woman was among some 16,000 Muslims attending prayers at the shrine on the birthday of Prophet Mohammad, authorities said. The shrine displays what is believed to be a hair from Prophet Mohammad's beard. Security forces attempted to evacuate the worshippers from the lakeside shrine, which an estimated 200,000 Muslims visited on Thursday, officials said. The JKLF seeks Kashmir's independence from India, which rules two-thirds of the state, and Pakistan which controls the rest. The Hizb-UL-Mujahideen wants Kashmir to join Pakistan. JKLF leader Yasin Malik told Reuters this week his group was due on Friday to rejoin the all-party Hurriyat conference, which groups some 30 separatist units including Hizb-UL-Mujahideen. The JKLF broke with Hurriyat during a siege of Hazratbal by Indian security forces in 1993. It was not clear following the fighting if JKLF would rejoin the Hurriyat as planned. The clash between the two militant groups came at the end of a day of violence across the state, torn by a five-year-old separatist revolt against Indian rule in which police and hospital officials say more than 20,000 people have died. A bomb blast on Thursday killed a state government worker stationed along a route taken by Hindu pilgrims whose lives had been threatened by Harkat-UL-Ansar militants. A second bomb exploded elsewhere along the route, near the cave where the pilgrims travel to Lord Shiva, but no one was wounded, police said. Harkat-UL-Ansar took responsibility for the explosions.

Half of Japan's cabinet to visit controversial war shrine

TOKYO (AFP) — Half of Japan's cabinet plans to visit a controversial shrine to the war dead on Tuesday, the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, despite the threat of protests at home and abroad. The Kyodo news agency said Friday that 10 out of the 21 ministers from the three ruling coalition parties plan to pay homage at Yasukuni Shrine. The Shinto sanctuary, outside the Imperial Palace, is dedicated to those who died in Japan's modern wars — including wartime prime minister General Hideki Tojo and other Class-A war criminals hanged for the their World War II roles. Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) chief, and other top coalition leaders have said they will not visit the shrine on August 15, only a week after the reshuffle of the 13-month-old government. Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, who leads the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said he decided against the visit "considering the possible repercussions in foreign countries." The three coalition party leaders, also including Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura of the New Party Sakigake, did not visit the shrine last year although seven ministers of the then government did. Past visits to the shrine by Japan's premiers, and ministers have sparked protests in China, South Korea and other Asian nations which still vividly remember Japan's war atrocities. Japanese citizens, including Buddhists and Christians, have also opposed the pilgrimage which they say violates the constitutional dictum of the separation of religion and the state. Shinto was enforced as the state religion during the war with the emperor worshipped as its demi-god. Prime Minister Murayama and the five other ministers from his leftist party, known for its pacifist creed, have vowed not to visit the shrine this year, Kyodo said. But many of the 13 ministers from the LDP will go, Kyodo added, including Construction Minister Yoshio Mori, Minister of International Trade and Industry Ryutaro Hashimoto, Education Minister Yoshinobu Shimamura, Home Affairs Minister Takashi Fukaya and State Minister for Defence Seishiro Eto. "I visit the shrine every year, although not necessarily August 15," said the new education minister. Mr. Shimamura angered Asian neighbours Wednesday by saying it was not clear if Japan had waged a war of aggression in Asia and that Japan should not keep on apologising for its wartime actions. Mr. Hashimoto is head of a nationwide association for families of the war dead which, with a membership of some one million households, has given strong electoral support to the LDP, which alone ruled Japan for 38 straight years until losing the 1993 general election. The LDP cabinet ministers, however, stressed that they would visit the shrine only in an "unofficial capacity," Kyodo said. Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka, a Social Democrat, told reporters Friday, "I wish cabinet members would refrain from making official visits by taking into consideration circumstances at home and in other countries."

Search for bodies of 65 killed in Salvadoran plane crash continues

TEPETITAN, El Salvador (AP) — Searchers climbed the slopes of a volcano Thursday to recover the bodies of 65 people who were killed in El Salvador's deadliest air disaster. Aviateca flight 901 took off from Miami Wednesday en route to San Salvador and stopped in Guatemala City. It was approaching Comalapa Airport near San Salvador at about 7:30 p.m. when it crashed near the top of the 7,000-foot (2133-metre) Chichontepec volcano, also known as San Vicente, about 37 miles east of San Salvador. Aviateca did not immediately release the names of the 58 passengers and seven crew members on board. The Boeing 737 was to have gone on to Managua, Nicaragua, and San Jose, Costa Rica. Brazil's ambassador to Nicaragua, Genaro Antonio Mucio, and his wife, Magdalena, were killed, said Victor Hugo Irrigay, an official at the Brazilian embassy in San Salvador. Denmark's ambassador to Nicaragua, Palle Marker, and his embassy's first secretary, Peter Kragh, also were among the victims, the Danish foreign ministry said. The cause of the crash was not known. Gladys Miranda de Valencia, the sister of pilot Axel Byron Miranda Herrera, said Aviateca told her he had reported unspecified mechanical problems a few minutes before the crash. Aviateca spokesman Mauricio Rodriguez said it was raining "very, very hard" at the time of the crash. Heavy fog prevented helicopters from reaching the crash site Thursday, and bad roads stopped rescue vehicles miles from the wreckage. At six miles (9.7 kilometres) away, the village of Tepetitán is the closest settlement to the crash site. About 400 people were involved in the search, Mr. Gomez said.

China to hold second missile test in a month

BEIJING (AP) — Experts say China's second series of missile tests in a month will have little military value but rather are aimed at intimidating Taiwan. The planned test firings of guided missiles and live artillery shells starting next week in the East China Sea north of Taiwan are the latest in a summer-long series of political and military tit-for-tat between China and the island it views as a renegade province. Beijing has been wary of Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui's efforts to gain greater international recognition for the economic powerhouse and was alarmed when Washington allowed him to make a private visit. China started a three-month military exercise on the coast opposite Taiwan soon after Mr. Lee's visit and then tried to increase the pressure with ballistic missile tests in mid-July. The announcement Thursday of the next planned tests, due to start Tuesday and last for 10 days, came after Taiwan scheduled army, navy and air force exercises in October. "This series of exercises is meant to intimidate Taiwan," said Eric Arnett, a military technology expert at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Although usually secretive about its military, Beijing reported the latest planned tests the same way it announced the previous ones: in a brief dispatch from the government news agency and on the national TV news. "The Chinese People's Liberation Army will conduct exercises of guided missile and artillery live ammunition firing," the official Xinhua news agency said. Ships and airplanes were warned to stay out of the designated waters and airspace in the target area, 100 kilometres north of Taiwan. Experts say China tests missiles every year at this time, but normally notification is given quietly through diplomatic channels. They also noted that there is little military intelligence to be gained by repeated firings of missiles. Six surface-to-surface ballistic missiles were fired in the last test. In addition, China's military normally tests missiles on land, where greater secrecy can be maintained than in international waters, so there is no need for the target area to be so close to Taiwan, the experts said. "The East China Sea is a big ocean. They don't have to put it 100 clicks (kilometres) off Taiwan," said Bob Karniol, Asia-Pacific editor for Jane's defence weekly. China's military is believed to have played a greater role in policy-making toward Taiwan and the United States since the foreign ministry failed to prevent Mr. Lee's U.S. visit. Reports in the Hong Kong media citing unnamed sources have said China's top leaders have decided to keep the pressure on Mr. Lee and on Taiwan. Presidential elections are scheduled for next year and China is worried that Mr. Lee or opposition leaders will win, spurring calls for Taiwan to declare independence. Mr. Lee has moved his nationalist party away from its cold war-era claim to sovereignty over all of China. The nationalists took refuge on Taiwan after losing civil Communist Party-led forces in 1949.

Three indicted in Oklahoma bombing

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Three former army friends with a grudge against the government have been indicted for the Oklahoma City bombing, the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil. Timothy McVeigh, 27, and Terry Nicholas 40, each were charged Thursday with 11 counts in the April 9 bombing and could get the death penalty. A 4,800-pound (2,200-kilogrammes) fertiliser-and-fuel-oil bomb in a rented truck ripped apart the Alfred P. Murrah federal building, killing 168 people and injuring more than 500. Michael Fortier, a 26-year-old who struck a deal with prosecutors, was charged with four lesser offenses and immediately pleaded guilty. He could get up to 23 years in prison in return for testifying against the others. All three men were in the U.S. army together at Fort Riley, Kansas, and shared a deep distrust of the government and a love of weapons. Mr. McVeigh, who was decorated after fighting in the 1990-91 Gulf War, was arrested by Oklahoma highway police 90 minutes after the bombing on traffic charges. Mr. Nicholas surrendered to police on April 21 and was originally held as a material witness in the bombing. The indictments followed a massive investigation by hundreds of agents into thousands of tips. After initially focusing on possible links to right-wing militias nationwide, investigators concluded they did not have enough evidence to charge any others. Privately, a senior federal official said that the attack was probably not a right-wing conspiracy but the work of maybe five malcontents, only two of whom did any "heavy lifting." "We will pursue every lead based on the evidence. But we have charged everyone involved that we have evidence of at this point," Attorney General Janet Reno said in Washington. Lead Prosecutor Joseph Hartzler said, "The grand jury found probable cause to believe that there are others involved. We will continue the investigation." The indictment does not specify a motive for the bombing, but prosecutors earlier alleged that McVeigh was angry at the government over the 1993 cult disaster at Waco, Texas. The bombing took place on the two-year anniversary of the assault and fire that ended in the deaths of at least 85 cult members. The grand jury returned the indictment in a courthouse across the street from the blast site. The indictment details a plot dating to September in which McVeigh and Nichols allegedly stockpiled ammonium fertiliser and other explosives in Kansas and Arizona, planned the robbery of a gun dealer in Arkansas to finance the attack, and together built the bomb. Mr. McVeigh is accused of detonating the bomb after parking the truck in front of the building. The charges include using weapons of mass destruction, destruction of federal property, and the killing of federal law officers who worked in the building. Mr. Fortier is charged with knowing about the plot and not alerting authorities, and transporting stolen firearms across state lines. Authorities said he admitted checking out the federal building in December with McVeigh. Mr. Fortier was taken into custody after pleading guilty before U.S. District Judge David Russell. He calmly admitted each offense and waived his right to a jury trial. Mr. McVeigh's attorney, Stephen Jones, warned against a "rush to judgment" and said he was concerned "that for political reasons, the indictments and prosecutions of a limited number of 'drifters' will be passed off to the public as a completely successful investigation resulting in the arrest of all concerned."

U.S. military officials said Hassan "are discussing information that General Hussein Kamel Hassan may have on Iraqi arms, especially biological and chemical weapons," an official quoted by AFP said.

"Serious talks have not begun and should take place in the next 24 hours," the official said.

Features

Sleaze rubs shine off Germany's moral halo

A string of corruption values of honesty and claims against business duty for a 'backhander' leaders suggests that Ger- society,' Denis Staunton mans are abandoning old reports from Frankfurt.

AS A top businessman and board member of the Opel car giant, Peter Enderle was one of Germany's heroes, one of the men who built the country's wealth and made it great again. The company planned a huge party to celebrate his 60th birthday last month; many of the leading figures in Germany's business and political worlds had been invited — to the Opel factory at Russelsheim, outside Frankfurt — and the Federal Interior Minister, Manfred Kanther, was due to propose the toast. But 48 hours before the big day, Opel announced that it was all off — the party was cancelled, and Herr Enderle departed for a sudden and unexpected holiday.

The first sign of trouble had been when detectives turned up demanding to search his home, his car and his office. They suspected him of being one of 40 Opel managers to have accepted bribes from suppliers in return for Opel contracts. The main accusation is that the Hoch-tief construction firm billed Opel for 59,500 worth of repairs to Enderle's home in Wiesbaden. Mr. Enderle insists that he did nothing wrong but he resigned within a week, along with two members of Opel's supervisory board. News came from Detroit that another former Opel manager who was under investigation had committed suicide.

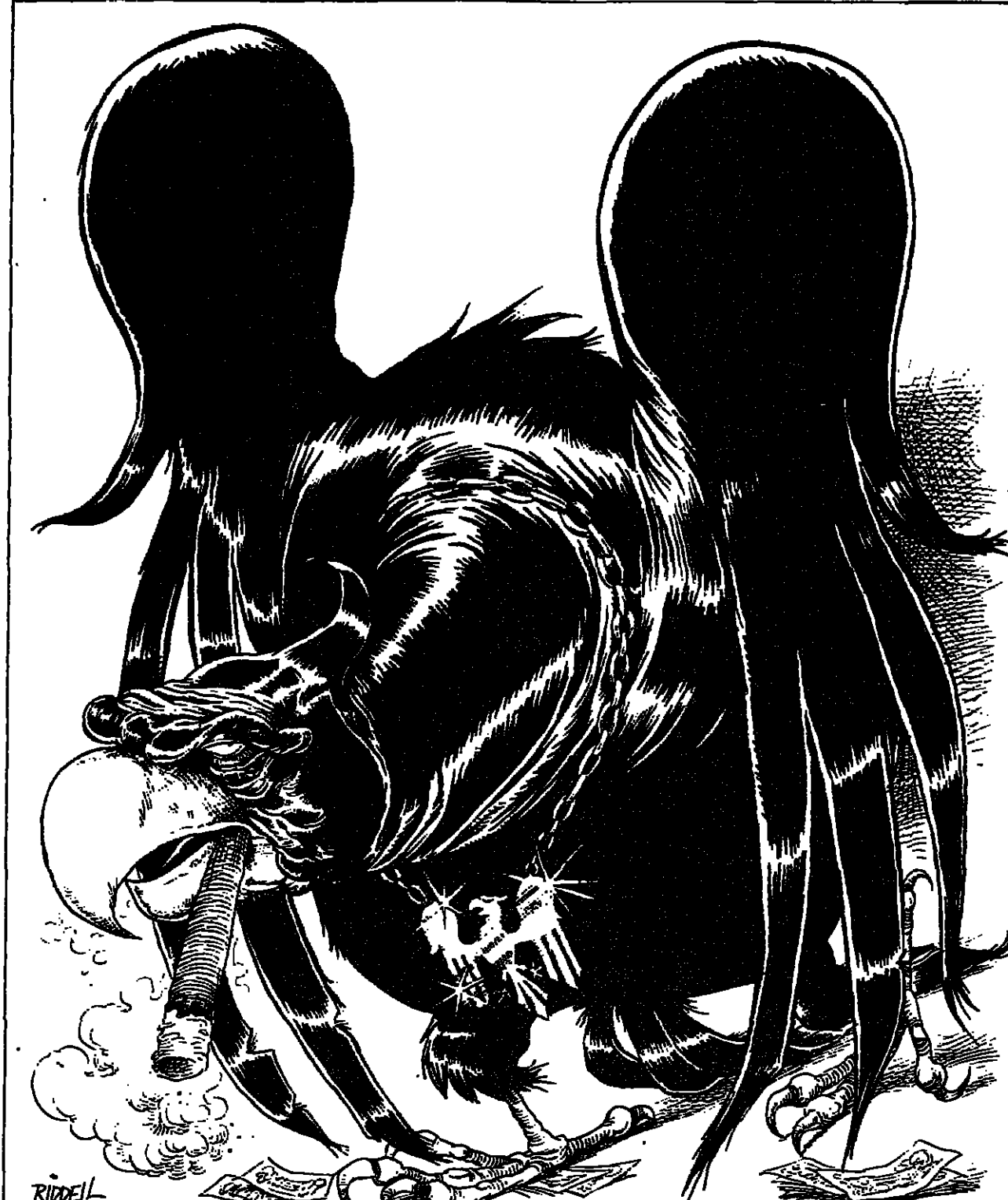
It was revealed a few days later that managers at Ford in Cologne and at Volkswagen in Wolfsburg had taken bribes of up to 278,000 from suppliers and that detectives are investigating corrupt practices at such pillars of German industry as Siemens, BASF and Nordorf. These revelations of sleaze at the heart of the German economy have come as a severe shock to a nation which has traditionally revered industrialists and where economic success is seen as the central national achievement of the past 50 years. "It was our secret victory after the military defeat in the World War II and the moral defeat represented by Auschwitz, and this economic success helped to compensate for the feeling of inferiority felt by many Germans in the post-war years," according to Horst-Eberhard Richter, a German psychoanalyst and the author of a best-selling book about corruption.

"It gives us a sense of identity to know that the strength of the D-Mark makes Europe dependent on us, or that you would no longer be able to make Rolls-Royce or Jaguar cars in Britain if it wasn't for BMW buying up the factory."

The tall, gleaming temples of corporate finance which dominate the skyline of Frankfurt testify to the fact that this is a city dedicated to making, spending and manipulating money. According to the head of the city's corruption squad, Wolfgang Schuppensteiner, there are few things in Frankfurt that money cannot buy.

A driving licence can be obtained for £1,300, he said, and £2,200 is the going rate for a residence permit allowing a foreigner to work in Germany. "Licences for bars, restaurants and nightclubs can all be arranged at a price and you can quite easily buy your way into a council bill. Everything is organised on a normal commercial basis," he said. Mr. Schuppensteiner has uncovered more than 1,500 cases of corruption involving public servants in Frankfurt since his squad was set up in 1988, leading to almost 300 convictions and prison sentences of up to seven years. He says that, although Germany is still no match for countries such as Italy in the corruption stakes, the problem has grown at an astonishing rate in recent years.

"We have convicted mayors of towns for taking bribes. That is a development which would have been unthinkable in Germany a few years ago — that a mayor, who occupied a relatively senior position in society, would allow himself to be bribed like some petty official... Corruption now goes right through the hierarchy." Fresh revelations of sleaze in German industry have been appearing almost weekly throughout the summer, often centring on companies and financial institutions previously regarded as above reproach. "The public response to all these scandals has been strongly emotional and negative," says "Schuppensteiner. "People are outraged that corruption can go on in the heart of society and they are fearful of the damage this trend can do to the country as a whole." The news magazine Der Spiegel declared that Ger-



The psychoanalyst Richter says that Germans as a whole have become steadily more egotistical, more competitively minded and less concerned with truth and honesty over the past 20 years, and he detects a sharp backlash against the old national stereotype. "The want to get away from the image of the well-behaved, upright, dutiful German and all the pedantry and fussiness associated with it. The modern German wants to show he can be just as relaxed as an American," he said. Many German managers are impressed by the glamour of American businessmen, such as Lee Iacocca, who have become international celebrities. But the cult of the individual manager sits uneasily with a German corporate culture which has always emphasised company loyalty and the identification of employees at every level with the firm. The structure of most big German companies reflects the broadly consensual society which Germany has been since the end of the World War II. Workers' representatives sit on supervisory boards and most companies take seriously their responsibility for employees' welfare, strenuously avoiding compulsory redundancies for German staff, funding sports and projects. So, for most Germans, stealing from the company is tantamount to dipping into the pocket of your fellow worker or your next-door neighbour. Klaus Franz, a workers' representative at Opel, says his colleagues were incensed when they heard that their bosses may have been taking bribes, particularly since these were the very same executives who had insisted on painful cost-cutting. "About the individual motives one can only speculate because in material terms these people did not need to do it. They were in such high positions that you would think power was much more important to them than material gain. The workers were very disappointed because they have made big sacrifices to cut costs and to keep the company profitable," he says. Business analysts say the solution to Germany's corruption problem lies in introducing better controls over where corporate money is going and how contracts are being awarded. Improving auditing standards would help, but much of the responsibility for keeping a company clean lies with its supervisory board, which keeps a close eye on managers. The big German banks have representatives on the supervisory boards of almost every big company, but when Deutsche Bank was contacted last week, nobody was prepared to talk about corruption. "What gave you the idea of asking us?" spluttered a spokesman. "We've got nothing to do with any of these scandals and you can easily get your fingers burnt by commenting on them." But Professor Simon insists that the banks bear a large share of the responsibility, not just for the rise in corruption but for large-scale fraud cases such as the collapse of Jürgen Schneider's multi-billion-mark property empire last year. He says the relationship between bankers and businessmen is often too cosy for anybody's good.

"You should keep some distance from the people you're trying to control. If they belong to the same clubs and move in the same social circle as you it is more difficult to judge them properly. I think that was part of the problem with Mr. Schneider. Too many people were impressed by his glamour and by the parties he gave," he says. Mr. Schneider is currently serving a 15-year prison sentence, awaiting extradition to Germany on fraud charges following his arrest after almost a year on the run. Police say that Peter Graf, father of Germany's tennis star Steffi Graf, was also about to flee the country when they arrested him last week for alleged tax fraud. Mr. Richter says the claims against Steffi and her father represent a further blow to the German self-image as a nation of upright, incorruptible citizens. "Steffi was a role model for the Germans, an image of purity. You never saw her being inconsiderate. She never spoke nastily like so many others and now suddenly she is implicated in this corruption and we hear that she could end up in jail as well as her father," he said.

Count Johann Lamb-dorff, an economist at Göttingen University who studies corruption, believes that the wave of revelations may have more to do with a new public awareness of the problem than with any real increase in sleaze. He says that, until 1989, the presence of communism behind the Berlin Wall meant that West Germany felt under pressure to suggest that capitalism was beyond reproach. "Maybe for that reason more was brushed under the carpet in the past. It could be that the 1990s have seen a return to a kind of civil society and we are most alert and more determined to do something about corruption." But for Mr. Schuppensteiner, the spate of scandals provides support for a message he has been trying to convey to businessmen for years — that corrupt practices can damage their company as much as society in general. He estimates that corruption in the building trade pushes up the cost of public works by almost 30 per cent and says the long-term effects on the economy could be much more serious. "Corruption means hindering competition. It is not the company that performs best which wins the contract but the one that bribes the most. Why should a company bother to make better products if they can sell their bad products with bribes?"

The Observer

Iraqis given Jordan asylum

(Continued from page 1) dam's hometown, and related to the president's father, had defected. But it was known that members of the Al Majid clan were engaged in a running conflict with the half brothers and sons of President Saddam for power. In any event, the defections were seen as a serious blow to the regime of President Saddam and was taken as a strong sign of serious trouble in the ruling circles in Baghdad. International news agencies reported from Amman and Dubai that Hussein Kamel Al Hassan, a general who was fired as minister of minerals and industries and as head of the Military Industrialisation Organisation, had established contacts with representatives of Iraqi opposition groups and the U.S. government. "The U.S. government is interested in the fact that they defected, which we see as a major step... the most significant (defection) since the Gulf war," said an unidentified U.S. embassy official quoted by the Associated Press. U.S. military officials and Mr. Hassan "are discussing information that General Hussein Kamel Hassan might have on Iraqi arms, especially biological and chemical," an official quoted by AFP said. "Serious talks have not begun and should take place in the next 24 hours," the official said. A number of meetings will take place in Amman.

from sisterly Iraq, who chose Jordan — the refuge of the children of the nation in good and bad times — as a place of residence and a safe haven where they find security and respectable life under the umbrella of its leadership. Informed sources that Uday Hussein's visit here was aimed at settling the "differences within Saddam's family" that prompted the defection, but that no meeting between Uday and his sisters or brothers-in-law took place. Diplomats saw there had been rumours of rising tension between Uday and Mr. Hassan, and that the "struggle over power between the two men could no longer be contained." They said Mr. Hassan was a powerful figure in the Saddam cabinet who was responsible for the development of the secret Iraqi weapons programmes in the 1980s and was placed this June in charge of the key area of military industry. An official statement said that King Hussein met with an Iraqi delegation that included Uday Saddam Hussein, Ali Hassan Majid, an advisor to President Saddam, and several Iraqi officials. "They discussed the arrival of several Iraqi officials to Jordan and their request to remain in the country," the statement said. However, saying that the decision to grant the party asylum "has no bearing on Jordanian-Iraqi relations," Foreign Minister Kabariti told the Jordan Times. The question of handing them over was "unmentionable,"

he said, adding that "it was their choice (to come here) and we have expressed our acceptance of whatever the Iraqi people accept for themselves." Washington on Thursday announced that the U.S. supports Jordan's "courageous" move in granting the Iraqis refuge. U.S. President Bill Clinton told a press conference at the White House that the "U.S. will back Jordan" if it comes under any threat from Iraq. The American leader said that he received a telephone call from King Hussein concerning the defections on Tuesday. "King Hussein's decision, located where he is, to grant asylum to those individuals is clearly an act of real courage, and I have assured him and told him that we would stand behind Jordan," Mr. Clinton said at a White House news conference. Mr. Clinton said he had discussed the defections with King Hussein in a telephone conversation on Tuesday night, and that while he did not want to create undue alarm about possible retaliation, the situation had to be worrisome for Jordan because "we know that Saddam Hussein has been unpredictable in the past." "It should be clear that the United States considers Jordan our ally and entitled to our protection if its security is threatened as a result of this incident," he said. Mr. Clinton reminded reporters — and at the same time, warned Baghdad — that the United States can rapidly project military power in the Middle East, as was shown last fall when Iraq threatened to invade Kuwait. As if to underline his pledge to Jordan, the Defense Department said U.S. Marines would conduct scheduled manoeuvres with Jordanian forces beginning next week. Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said the August 14-30 joint exercises in and near Jordan had been planned before the Iraqi defections. In what politicians saw as sign that Baghdad was not contemplating any aggression against the Kingdom, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported that President Saddam congratulated King Hussein on the anniversary of his accession to the throne. It said that a congratulatory cable from the Iraqi president to the King wished for "continued progress and growth for the fraternal ties between the two countries." He added his wishes "to see the brotherly relations between Jordan and Iraq develop and strengthen to the benefit of our two peoples and the entire Arab Nation." The telegram concluded "peace be upon you, your brother, Saddam Hussein."

Mr. Hassan has been quoted by official sources as accusing the Iraqi regime of "losing all credibility both on the Arab and international scales," and that he has already started contacts with other Iraqis both in and outside Iraq to help end the suffering of the Iraqi people by "formulating programme that guarantees radical changes to the situation in Iraq." INA reported Thursday that the industry minister has been dismissed but gave no reason for the decision, which reports from Baghdad said was issued after President Saddam found out about the defection. "General Hussein Kamel Hassan, minister of industry and minerals said director of the military industrialisation organisation has been relieved of his post," INA said, adding that the decree was issued Wednesday and announced Thursday. According to informed

sources, Mr. Hassan and his companions crossed the Iraqi border into Jordan by land as they would have been unable to fly out of Iraq due to United Nations sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. Mr. Hassan is the third relative of President Saddam Hussein to be dismissed from the cabinet in three and a half months. The previous ministers to go were Interior Minister Wathban Ibrahim Al Tikriti and Defence Minister Ali Hassan Majied, President Saddam's half brother and cousin respectively. Israeli troop withdrawal from Hebron, but Israel has said it needs soldiers in the city to protect the settlers. "I think that the Palestinian Authority has made it an issue to prove that it is putting up its strongest political battle for Hebron," Mr. Peres said Friday. Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natche said there was broad support among Palestinians for Mr. Arafat's refusal to back down on Hebron. "This gives Mr. Arafat more confidence from the people here," Mr. Natche told Israel Radio, suggesting that the city's Jewish settlers move to the nearby settlement of Kiryat Arba. Jewish settlers swore never to leave the city. The emerging accord was received with criticism among Palestinian factions in Damascus, who said the proposed redeployment of Israeli forces did not go far enough.

Big powers

(Continued from page 1) "But we'll bring the hell back to the Croats," vowed Ms. Trpevic, a native of Topusko, a town just south of Zagreb. "Vengeance, that's what most of those people have on their minds." As she spoke, hundreds of refugees drove vehicles with broken windows into Dobanovi, some 30 kilometres west of Belgrade, where Serbian authorities had set up registration and reception areas. About 800 refugees an hour arrived during Friday morning. Local Red Cross officials said 80,000 refugees had arrived in Serbia since the Croatian army attacked rebel-held areas one week ago, setting off the biggest civilian exodus in four years of war in the former Yugoslavia. Police and soldiers protected the columns of defeated Serbs after angry mobs stoned refugees, prompting a sharp rebuke to Zagreb by the United Nations Security Council. Ugly scenes on Wednesday as the first refugees left the former frontline Croat town of Sisak in long convoys of cars, trucks and tractors denied Croatia's pledge that the departing Serbs would be properly treated. The first columns of around 200 vehicles, many carrying rebel Serb soldiers still in camouflage uniform, limped into Serbia with burst windshields and car windows shattered.

Israel, PLO clear hurdles

(Continued from page 1) lish the full agreement before it is signed. Also Friday, Likud collected the signatures of one-fourth of Israel's 120 legislators needed to call parliament back from summer recess for a special debate on the partial agreement. The debate was to be held next week. "This is an accord of surrender, made by a government that has no mandate and no popular majority," a Likud statement said. On prisoners, Mr. Peres said numbers weren't discussed. The criteria for release would be discussed later. Some 6,500 Palestinians are held in Israeli jails, most on charges of anti-Israeli violence or membership in formerly outlawed groups. Mr. Peres said he suggested a number of solutions for Hebron. Mr. Arafat is holding out for a complete

**Business
Daily
Beat**

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Cement company authorised to issue JD 15 million debentures

THE GENERAL assembly of the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) approved at an extraordinary session held Thursday recommendations put by the board of directors to issue JD 15 million of debentures to finance production modernisation and environmental projects. At the ordinary general assembly meeting held afterwards, shareholders approved the distribution of JD 8.46 million, or 14 per cent, in dividends. The company generated a JD 10.4 million net profit last year after having processed 3.1 million tonnes of clinker with JD 67.37 million in industrial costs. Exports totalled 887,023 tonnes, nearly 140,000 tonnes higher than the 1993 figures (Al Ra'i).

THE HEAD of the truckowners' association accuses transport offices of violating rules governing new charges issued by the Ministry of Transport, especially for carrying goods to foreign destinations. He charges these offices of lowering or increasing the tariffs according to their own interests and points out that a load to Baghdad carries a JD 19 per tonne tariff but transport offices pay only JD 10 per tonne and unrightfully keep JD 9 per tonne as profit. The association chief says lack of strict control and supervision is giving the transport offices the opportunity to load non-Jordanian trucks whenever a large number of them are present. The ministry said it would tighten supervision on these offices and urged strict abidance to the new tariffs (Al Ra'i).

MORE THAN 100 air cargo clearing and freight companies will soon begin their work from new offices near Queen Alia International Airport. The new 1,650 square metre building, which will house 68 clearing companies and 42 airfreight firms, was set up by the Civil Aviation Authority at cost of JD 218,000. The move will facilitate working conditions for the companies as they will be having 64 new offices of various sizes to operate from instead of the four offices now being used at the premises of the airfreight building. The volume of freight from the airport, which amounted to 720,070 tonnes of goods in addition to 1.14 million kilograms of mail, is expected to increase in the near future.

THE AUDIT Bureau saved the treasury JD 2.4 million during the first five months of this year. According to the May performance report, the bureau audited 17,650 records, conducted 510 "unannounced tests" and participated in 4,806 different committees. The Audit Bureau issued 56 clarification requests during May 1995 about financial irregularities at various government departments. There were 1,719 clarification requests still outstanding. Meanwhile, the Directorate of Planning and Central Control of the Audit Bureau is conducting a performance evaluation of some institutions such as the Telecommunications Corporation, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation, the Postal Savings Fund and the General Statistics Department. The reports on these institutions are expected to come out in a few months (Al Ra'i).

U.S. cigarette makers fuming over Clinton curbs

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Fuming U.S. tobacco firms went to court Thursday to block a government crackdown on cigarette sales to minors, and served notice to President Bill Clinton that he was running serious political risks.

The advertising industry also threatened legal action if necessary to protect what it called its constitutional right to promote tobacco products without restrictions from Washington.

They were responding to Mr. Clinton's announcement Thursday that nicotine was an addictive drug and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) would take a series of steps to keep young people from getting hooked. The measures would forbid the sale of cigarettes to anyone who cannot prove they are at least 18, ban vending machines accessible to young people, and severely curb marketing campaigns aimed at the youth market.

The five major U.S. manufacturers quickly filed suit in a federal court in the southern tobacco state of North Carolina, seeking to block the FDA action.

"The FDA's attempt to exert jurisdiction over

cigarettes is an unprecedented and unlawful effort to extend its regulatory reach far beyond its statutory mandate," said Charles Blixt, senior vice president of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco.

The tobacco industry says the FDA would need a mandate from Congress before it could get into such areas, and so far legislators have shown no inclination to confer such authority on the regulatory body.

Cigarette manufacturers also complained that the Clinton campaign against teen smoking ignored their own voluntary efforts to keep their product out of the hands of minors. They predicted a long court fight.

Political analysts said Mr. Clinton's decision to take on the tobacco industry could have serious electoral consequences coming barely 15 months before the Democrat will be seeking a second term in the White House.

Steve Parrish, a senior vice president of the Philip Morris tobacco company, suggested Mr. Clinton was taking a chance by ignoring the message of the Republican landslide in last November's congressional elections.

GTE to join Disney, Baby Bell venture

LOS ANGELES (R) — U.S. telecommunications giant GTE said Thursday it had agreed to join Walt Disney Co. and three regional telephone companies in a \$500 million entertainment venture providing video programming and interactive services.

In a statement, GTE Corp said it will join Ameritech Corp, BellSouth Corp and Southwestern Bell, a unit of SBC Communications Inc, as an equal partner in the venture.

Disney and the three regional "Baby Bell" companies originally announced the creation of the home entertainment venture in April 1995.

The Los Angeles-based venture, to be funded collectively by the partners with \$500 million over a five-year period, will initially provide entertainment and interactive programming for distribution by the communication partners.

While Disney is developing the core programming, the telephone companies are upgrading their networks to carry video and interactive signals to homes and businesses.

GTE's involvement increases the combined reach of the venture to 68 million access lines in 33 states from 50 million access lines previously, adding lucrative markets such as Los Angeles, Tampa, St. Petersburg, Florida, Dallas and other sunbelt cities. It also gives the venture a presence in the northwest, southwest and southeast.

"This is an important step forward for the venture," said Disney Chairman Michael Eisner. "GTE will help introduce the venture's programming into new growth areas of the country. This means more people in more places will be entertained and informed by the venture programming."

The entertainment giant has not discussed financial terms or said whether the investment will be divided equally among the partners. The venture will develop, acquire, package and market entertainment, educational and interactive programming on a nationwide basis. It will also develop services such as video-on-demand, home shopping and networked video games.

"The American people sent a very clear message last year. As citizens we want less government intrusion in our daily lives," Mr. Parrish said. "We want politicians to start using some common sense."

Industry officials see the attack on underage smoking as an attempt to establish a beachhead to ban cigarettes completely.

"Make no mistake, the real hidden agenda here is prohibition," Mr. Parrish said in reference to the 1919-1933 ban on liquor in the United States which gave rise to a generation of bootleggers.

Mr. Clinton was running afloat of an industry that has been hallowed part of the United States since the Republic's founding, and which registered more than \$47 million in U.S. sales last year.

Despite an active anti-smoking lobby, up to 50 million Americans, one fifth of the country's population, still light up.

Politicians from tobacco producing states have reacted bitterly to the government's move against cigarettes, with members of the president's own party among the most outspoken.

"I'm very disappointed with the president's decision. It's the wrong way to go," said North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt, a Democrat. Senator Wendell Ford of Kentucky moaned: "My farmers lost out to the zealots."

The White House's internal polls reportedly showed widespread support for action against underage smoking. But political analysts wondered whether Mr. Clinton should write off the South in the November 1996 election.

Mr. Clinton won only three of the six largest tobacco states in his first run for the presidency in 1992. One of them, Georgia, he took by a scant 5,000 votes.

The industry directly or indirectly provides employment for more than 680,000 people, according to the Tobacco Institute. And at least one group — advertisers — was also gearing for battle with Mr. Clinton.

The Association of National Advertisers Inc., which says it represents 5,300 firms, called the measures announced Thursday "a crushing censorship regime" and said it would file suit if necessary to protect its rights to free speech.

For Information Only

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Date: 8/8/95			
Currency	Unit	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.742	0.744	
Swedish Pound	1.1204	1.1244	
Deutsche Mark	0.494	0.4993	
Swiss Franc	0.5492	0.5522	
French Franc	0.1440	0.1447	
Japanese Yen	0.7466	0.7704	
Dutch Guilder	0.4434	0.4454	
Swedish Krona	---	---	
Italian Lira	0.0443	0.0445	
Belgian Franc	---	---	
Other Currencies			
Date: 8/8/95			
Currency	Unit	Offer	
Mohammed Dinar	1.4320	1.4360	
Lebanese Lira	0.0423	0.0432	
Saudi Riyal	0.1869	0.1882	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2950	2.3550	
Omani Riyal	0.1914	0.1929	
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2140	
Omani Riyal	1.6120	1.6310	
UAE Dirham	0.1403	0.1412	
Greek Drachma	0.2810	0.3210	
Cypriot Pound	1.5750	1.5800	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.			
One U.S. dollar	1.3580/90	Canadian dollar	1.4302/12
	1.6016/26	Deutschemarks	1.6016/26
	1.1868/78	Dutch guilders	29.37/41
	29.37/41	Swiss francs	4.9218/68
	1588.2/9.2	Belgian francs	5.3350/00
	93.67/77	French francs	7.1130/30
	7.1130/30	Italian lire	6.2760/10
	5.3350/00	Japanese yen	1.5844/54
		Swedish crowns	1.5844/54
		Norwegian crowns	5.3350/00
		Danish crowns	5.3350/00
One Sterling	1.5844/54	U.S. dollar	1.5844/54
One ounce of gold	\$383.80/384.30	U.S. dollars	\$383.80/384.30

Aussies show swim power in Olympic tuneup Japanese women serve notice for 1996

ATLANTA (AFP) — Dan Kowalski edged world distance record king Kieren Perkins for gold and added a silver Thursday to lead Australia's greatest one-day medal haul ever at the Pan Pacific Swim Championships.

Australia captured nine medals, three gold and five silver, on the opening day of the biannual meet. Japan's women were also impressive with two triumphs and five medals overall.

Kowalski won the 800-metre freestyle in 7:50.28, out-touching Perkins by 52-hundredths of a second to deny his countryman's bid for a third straight PanPac sweep of the three longest races, in which he owns world records.

"I was surprised. I didn't think I would swim that quick," Kowalski said. "It was a total shock. It was my best time by four seconds." Kowalski was out of the

water from last September until April with a sore shoulder, a broken foot and injuries in a car accident. But he stayed with Perkins on every stroke until the finish.

"I was quietly confident with 50m to go I would win," Kowalski said. "I had been staying with him through the first 400 and I was moving faster. It was a great race."

Barely 30 minutes later, Kowalski was second to New Zealand's Danyon Loader in the 200 freestyle, hanging on for silver over the final length of the new \$17 million pool where 1996 Olympic races will be contested.

"After doing so much in the first 150 when I was hurting, there was no way I was going to let it all slip away in the last 50," he said.

The only blemish on Australia's success came in the

women's 1,500m freestyle showdown, where reigning champion Hayley Lewis was edged by Brooke Bennett, the 15-year-old who swept Janet Evans in distance races at the U.S. finals last week.

"I was surprised but I knew I was swimming well and could do it if I kept my concentration," Bennett said. "I won three gold medals at the U.S. championships. Maybe I'll come away with three golds here."

Lewis has her chance for revenge this weekend in the 400m and 800m freestyles.

Australians Susan O'Neill and Scott Miller set PanPac records in swimming 200m butterfly titles.

O'Neill, 200m butterfly bronze medalist at the 1992 Olympics and 1994 world meet, won in 2:07.29, four-hundredths of a second below the decade-old mark set by U.S. swimmer Mary T.

Meagher in Japan.

"It was just great knowing the team is doing really well and having your best times," O'Neill said. "I was pretty happy. I could tell I was on a good pace."

Miller lowered the PanPac record by six-hundredths of a second to 1:57.86, eclipsing the mark set by U.S. veteran Melvin Stewart in 1991. Another Australian, Scott Goodman, took second in 1:58.65 after fighting off an illness last month. Both times were personal bests.

"I'm really happy," Miller said. "I was a little bit nervous and I was hurting this morning. Plus I knew Scott would be fast."

Loader lowered his nation's best in the 200m freestyle, edging Tasman rival Kowalski to win in 1:48.72.

"I was good considering I was a half a length behind

at the start," Loader said. "I just wanted to go fast for as long as I could."

Japanese women made an impressive showing, with Suzu Chiba winning the 200m freestyle in 2:00.00 and Noriko Inada taking the 100 backstroke in a Japan-record 1:02.02. Japan's women also had a silver and a bronze.

"The past prizes Japan has won is really encouraging us to make a greater effort and go even farther and swim faster," said Chiba, who was sixth in her event at the 1992 Olympics.

World record holder Jeff Rouse won an unprecedented fourth straight PanPac 100m backstroke crown in 54.99 seconds.

Rodolfo Falcon set a Cuban record of 55.48 in preliminaries but was disqualified in the final for staying too long underwater.



A 1937 Jazzed Classic Salon on exhibition at the Amman International Motor Show (photo the Royal wing of the 2nd annual Classic Car by Roufan Nahhas) Exhibition which was held Aug. 10 and 11 at



Sanchez, Sabatini reach quarters

MANHATTAN BEACH (Agencies) — After a first-round bye and second-round default, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario finally got a chance to work up a sweat Thursday at the \$430,000 Acura Classic women's tennis tournament.

She made the most of her first match, defeating No. 16 Sabine Appelmans, 6-0, 3-6, 6-2 in the third round. It took Sanchez Vicario 1 hour, 47 minutes to get the win.

Top-seeded Sanchez Vicario took command early on, needing just 26 minutes to breeze through the first set.

"I was definitely eager to play," Sanchez Vicario said. "I wanted to start competition. This is the first time I've ever had to wait so long."

Appelmans turned the tables in the second set, breaking Sanchez Vicario in the sixth game to take a 4-2 lead. She held serve and won the second set, 6-3, the first set Sanchez Vicario had ever lost to Appelmans.

"I started really good, but she came back with some good shots and gave me trouble in the second set," Sanchez Vicario said.

But she got back on track in the third set, breaking Appelmans in the fourth game. She broke Appelmans again in the sixth game to take a 3-1 lead.

Appelmans won another game before falling, 6-2.

"I started playing my game, and playing this way has given me a lot of confidence," Sanchez Vicario said.

Gabriela Sabatini needed only 56 minutes to dispose of Karina Habsudova 6-1, 6-2.

The third-seeded Sabatini was in total control throughout, winning 71 per cent of her first serves and 75 per cent of Habsudova's second serves.

Habsudova, the No. 14

seed from Slovakia, negated any chance she may have had with numerous unforced errors and three double faults.

Sabatini meets 10th-seeded Chanda Rubin in the quarterfinals. Rubin advanced with a 7-6 (7-3), 3-6, 6-1 victory over Nathalie Baudone of Italy in a 2-hour, 19-minute match.

In other third-round action Thursday, No. 14 Lindsay Davenport eliminated No. 12 Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 7-5, 6-3. No. 5 Anke Huber of Germany beat Rita Grande of Italy 6-4, 4-6, 7-5.

No. 6 Natasha Zvereva of Belarus topped Asa Carlsson of Sweden 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, and Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia upset No. 9 Nathalie Tauziat of France 7-6 (7-5), 6-3.

In other quarterfinal matches, Sanchez Vicario faces Zvereva, No. 2 Conchita Martinez of Spain meets Huber and Davenport faces Basuki. Martinez advanced to the quarterfinals Wednesday night, beating No. 15 Julie Halard of France 6-7 (6-8), 6-0, 6-3.

The semifinals will be played Saturday and the final on Sunday at the Manhattan Country Club.

Sabatini said she played much better Thursday than she did in her second-round match, a three-set victory over Kristie Boogert of the Netherlands.

"I expected a little tougher match today," Sabatini said. "I hadn't played her before, but I've seen her play. She has very solid ground strokes. My game seemed to bother her a lot."

"I think I controlled the match. My strategy was very good. I was mixing up the shots and I caused her to make a lot of errors."

In the first set of the Davenport-Coetzer match,

there were four consecutive service breaks, and in the second set, five straight, with Davenport coming out on top 3-2.

Davenport won the last three games of the first set and the final two of the second.

"I always felt I should break her, and when I would get a break, I kind of relaxed a bit," Davenport said. "I went for the big forehand and it seemed to be working."

"It was sure hot out there. She lets you attack and she played really well, but I think she got tired."

Agassi, Chang advance

In Mason, Ohio, world number one Andre Agassi and two-time defending champion Michael Chang survived spirited challenges, but Boris Becker was one of four seeds to fall in second-round play at the ATP championships.

The fourth-ranked Becker, making his first appearance since reaching the Wimbledon final, fell short in a tight struggle with Dutch left-hander Jan Siemerink 7-5, 7-6 (9-7).

"Unfortunately now, I'll be practicing a lot the next few days instead of playing a couple more matches," Becker said.

Top seed Agassi struggled through a tough opening set before roaring through the second in overcoming Czech Daniel Vacek 7-6 (7-5), 6-1, while fourth seed Chang was extended by 157th-ranked fellow American Alex O'Brien, prevailing 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 to reach the third round.

Joining Becker on the sidelines was fifth-seeded Russian star Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who fell 6-4, 7-5, to Bernd Karbacher of Germany.

Hill wins Hungarian GP provisional pole

BUDAPEST (AP) — Damon Hill, driving for his job in Formula One racing,

posted the fastest time Friday to take the provisional pole position for Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix.

His Williams Renault teammate, David Coulthard, was second, giving fans of the two British drivers heart as both to perform well to stay with Williams.

Hill, who spun out two weeks ago barely one lap into the German Grand Prix, had a fastest lap of one minute, 18.374 seconds on the 3.668-kilometre Hungarian Circuit in the rolling hills outside the Hungarian capital.

Hill, second in the drivers' standings this year, was .626 second faster than Coulthard.

World champion Michael Schumacher of Germany, who got married last week and is said to be close to signing with Ferrari for next year, managed only fourth best, with 1:19.490, third was Gerhard Berger of Austria.

Berger's Ferrari teammate, Jean Alesi of France, was

fifth at 1:20.134. But trying to better his time, he spun out on a curve, bounced through the gravel and slammed into a soft barrier of piled tires.

His car was badly damaged, but Alesi walked away.

The Hungarian track is one of the shorter on the Grand Prix circuit, and its narrow and short straights mean it is hard to pass, putting a premium on the pole and high positions in the field.

The drivers all have another chance Saturday to improve their positions in the field in the second session of time trials.

While race preparations went ahead, the motor racing press devoted itself to a carousel of likely driver changes for next year's Grand Prix season.

Fiat tycoon Giovanni Agnelli confirmed on Thursday that Schumacher, who holds a commanding lead of 21 points over Hill in this year's drivers' standings, has signed with the Ferrari team, which is part of Fiat's empire.

And Indycar star Jacques Villeneuve, who won the last Indianapolis 500, was ready to move over to Formula One, probably with Williams-Renault, which had him over for testing last week and liked his driving. If that move by Villeneuve takes place, Williams drivers Hill and Coulthard would be one too many for the team.

Villeneuve, 24, a Canadian, would add a measure of legend to the Formula One scene — especially if he were enticed to join Ferrari instead of Williams. Villeneuve's father, Gilles, was a star Ferrari Driver before he was killed in practice for the 1982 Belgian Grand Prix.

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 in order to receive the terms of tender for a non-refundable fee of JD 100.
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♥ 8 5 3
♦ 8 4 2
♣ J 10 8 4

EAST
♠ J 10 8 7 4
♥ 6 5 3
♦ K 8 3
♣ A J 9 7 5

SOUTH
♠ K 5 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♠

How good is your technique?
Cover up the East and West hands and decide how you would play three no trump after the lead of the

jack of spades.
South has a difficult rebid. Technically, two hearts is probably correct. The disadvantage of a scientific approach is that it will surely tip the opponents off to the best opening lead. There is no trump in an eminently practical solution.

West leads the jack of spades. You have dodged a bullet—the opponents did not find the diamond lead that might have defeated you. Obviously, you can't afford to surrender the lead. Plan the play.

First, the club finesse is an illusion. Even if you were to succeed, you would have only eight tricks and would need a successful heart finesse for the ninth. Therefore, it is correct to rely on finding the king of hearts outside.

The problem is you might need to take three finesses to bring in four heart tricks, and you have only two entries to dummy. You have to manufacture a third and the optimum chance is to hope West's lead was from J 10 rather than shortness.

Win the ace of spades at trick one and jettison your king of spades under it. Now take the heart finesse. When that wins, cash the ace and king of clubs to see whether the queen drops, in which case another heart finesse will deliver the contract. When the lady doesn't appear, congratulate yourself for your foresight at trick one and lead a spade to the nine. That holds and you can take two more heart finesse, which you need as the cards lie, to take in nine hard-earned tricks.

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1995

Faisali win Cup Winner's Cup

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Faisali Friday scored a convincing 4-1 win over reigning Premier League champions Al Wihdat to clinch their record 9th Cup Winner's Cup — one of the country's four major soccer titles.

Al Faisali's win added another record to the team's long line of achievements as they have also won the Jordan Cup nine times and the Premier League 25 times.

Friday's match at Al Hussein Youth City was attended by their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Princess Rania.

Al Faisali won the first half 3-0 on goals from Mousa Awad, Rabea Al Awadat and Firas Khalil. The team displayed coherent teamwork and totally dominated the first half.

Al Wihdat's Khaled Majdalawi scored his team's face-saving goal at the beginning of the second half.

Al Faisali's Ja'far Hamad sealed his team's win

with the fourth goal in the final minutes of the match attended by over 14,000 fans.

Al Faisali had faced Al Wihdat for the Cup Winner's Cup four times winning the title in three of their clashes: 6-4 on penalties in 1981, 1-0 in 1986 and 2-1 in 1993. Al Wihdat beat Al Faisali 5-4 on penalties to win the title in 1989.

The JSF had considered the postponement of the match on a request by Al Wihdat who have four players on the Olympic team which recently con-

cluded a tournament in Taiwan. The players are Abdallah Abu Zame'h, Su'ayan Abdallah, Faisal Ahmad, and Munir Abu Hantash.

However, the team arrived in Amman Thursday and players, although tired, were here in time for the match.

Al Faisali and Al Wihdat have secured at least one title this season. Al Wihdat beat Al Jalil to win the JSF Shield while Al Faisali overcame Al Ramtha to win their record 9th Jordan Cup.

Cup Winner's Cup record (Runner up in brackets)

1981	Al Faisali (Al Wihdat)
1982	Al Faisali (Ramtha)
1983	Al Faisali (Al Wihdat)
1984	Al Faisali (Ramtha)
1985	Jazreh (Amman)
1986	Al Faisali (Al Wihdat)
1987	Al Faisali (Arabi)
1988	No match was held
1989	Al Wihdat (Al Faisali)
1990	Ramtha (Al Faisali)
1991	Al Faisali (Ramtha)
1992	Al Wihdat (Ramtha)
1993	Al Faisali (Al Wihdat)
1994	Al Faisali (Ramtha)
1995	Al Faisali (Al Wihdat)

Olajuwon happy with U.S. Jersey

SECAUCUS, New Jersey (AP) — After putting on his U.S. Olympic Jersey for the first time, Hakeem Olajuwon hardly cared that it was a bit tight. After what he went through to get it, the fit wasn't important.

"It's beautiful," he said when he modelled the red, white and blue No. 15 jersey for the first time.

For Olajuwon, being one of the first players named on the 12-man 1996 Olympic team marked the end of one mission and the start of another — winning a gold medal.

Ever since pros were first allowed to participate in Olympic basketball competition in 1992, the Nigerian-born Houston Rockets centre dreamed of playing for his adopted country. He watched, with longing, the original Dream Team win gold in Barcelona.

But even though he became a U.S. citizen in 1993, international basketball rules prohibited him from playing for the United States because he had represented his native Nigeria in an international tournament when he was a teenager.

By the time a team was

chosen to represent the United States in the 1994 World Championships, Olajuwon had largely given up any thought of ever being able to play for America.

"It wasn't a dream anymore for me," he said. "I decided to concentrate on other areas."

But on a trip through Boston in late 1994, he contacted Alan Dershowitz, The Harvard Law professor and attorney whose celebrity clients have included Mike Tyson and American footballer O.J. Simpson. Over dinner, Dershowitz said he thought Olajuwon could get permission to play from FIBA and offered to help.

"I just think Hakeem Olajuwon is the best role model in the NBA today for young people," Dershowitz said. "It would have been really a tragedy if he wasn't allowed to play in the Olympics."

FIBA was willing to listen to Olajuwon. When USA Basketball made its selections for the team in June, his waiver from FIBA was all but assured of going through and he was invited to join the team right around the time he was leading Houston to its second consecutive NBA ti-

tle.

"I thought it was too good to be true," he said.

It wasn't. A few weeks later, FIBA secretary Boris Stankovic granted Olajuwon an exception to the rules. He was free to play with Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal, San Antonio's David Robinson, Utah's Karl Malone and John Stockton, Chicago's Scottie Pippen and the rest of "Dream Team III" in Atlanta.

"This is the highest level of competition in the United States," he said. "To be selected as one of the players, (one of) only 12 to represent the U.S., it's a big honour."

It also will mean big fun for Olajuwon, who relishes the opportunity to play alongside O'Neal and Robinson, the other two Dream Team III centres. To allow Coach Larry Wilkens to have more than one of them on the floor at a time, Olajuwon said would gladly shift to power forward on occasion.

"It gives a lot of room to be creative," he said. "You're playing against your toughest competition in practice. The competition will be in practice. In the game, we'll be a team."

African struggle for Olympic places continues

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The contest to determine which three countries will represent Africa at the 1996 Olympic Games soccer tournament in the United States resumes this weekend.

Nigeria, favourites not only to reach the 16-nation finals, but probable challengers for the gold medals, host Egypt, whose 10 Olympic appearances is a record for Africa.

The Egyptians first played at the finals 75 years ago in the Belgian city of Antwerp, losing 2-1 to Italy in the first round, and were also in action at the 1992 Barcelona Games.

Nigeria can call on European-based professionals like Augustine Okocha from German club Eintracht Frankfurt and Nwankwo Kanu, who collected a European Cup winners' medal this year with Dutch masters Ajax.

Without their Foreign Legion, Nigeria struggled at

home to modest Kenya in the opening round, drawing 0-0, but an Okocha-inspired team made no mistake in the return match, winning 3-0.

Egypt were less impressive, scoring a couple of one-goal victories over little Mauritius, and it would be a surprise if Nigeria fail to build a winning lead with home advantage.

Traditional southern Africa rivals Zimbabwe and Zambia will not lack confidence ahead of their showdown following convincing first-round triumphs over Malawi and Botswana respectively.

Alois Bunjira and Elasto Lungu, a son of former national defender Ephraim,

scored twice each for Zimbabwe while Zambian Dennis Lota finished with a similar goal tally.

Ghana, idle in the opening phase when cash-strapped Congo withdrew, entertain Angola, who boast one of the most exciting young African players in Fabrice 'Akwa' Mateus.

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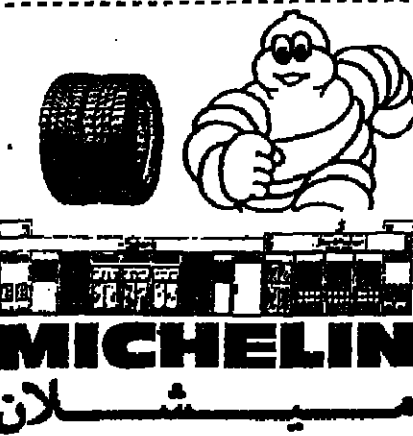
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World Athletics championships

U.S. wake up with Torrence hangover

GOTHENBURG (AFP) — The U.S. team were determined to get on with the World Championships here on Friday, but remained bitter over Gwen Torrence's disqualification and the accusations of cheating.

Torrence hit the line a clear winner here on Thursday night and completed her victory lap to thunderous applause before a jury disqualified the American for stepping out of her lane.

But what's been just as hard to swallow for the American squad were gold medalist Merlene Ottey's allegations that Torrence had cheated, and that the U.S. had used its influence to deny Ottey the 100m gold at the 1993 World Championships.

Meanwhile two-time Olympic champion Roger Kingdom was fastest first round qualifier in the 110 metres hurdles Friday as he chased his first world title.

Then he described how the disqualification of Torrence would spark the United States team into even greater efforts in the final three days of the World Championships.

"It's a sad situation and I wish it hadn't happened to her," Kingdom said. "It was almost the race of her life."

"But this will motivate the American runners. We'll band together and support her. We've still got one of the best forces in the world in track and field and, when you take one of best out, teams pull together."

In other developments Friday, defending titlist Ioanmea Quintero of Cuba and the 1991 champion Heike Henkel of Germany both were eliminated in the first round of the women's high jump and the championship record in the men's javelin was broken twice in the qualifying round, first by Germany's Boris Hentz then by world record holder Jan Zelezny of the Czech Republic.

Henkel managed 1.93 metres and placed 16th overall while Quintero's best was 1.90 and she was 20th. Twelve made it to Sunday's final, including American jumper Amy Acuff who cleared 1.93.

Henry threw 87.60 metres in the javelin to beat the meet record of 85.98, set by defending champion Zelezny at the last championships in Stuttgart. Zelezny, whose world record is 95.66, responded with a throw of 90.12.

Kingdom, who turns 33 in two weeks and almost back to his best after recovering from two knee operations, clocked 13.35 to win his heat after four false starts had made him unusually nervous.

"It's aggravating. You get antsy in the blocks and your arms are shaking," he said of the five-minute delay caused by the false starts.

"I'm also suffering from endinitis behind my right knee," said Kingdom after his first race since July 10 in Stockholm.

"But you can't think about that. These are the World Championships."

Another American medal contender, Allen Johnson, moved into the second round later Friday by winning his heat in 13.44.

In the absence of defending champion and world record holder Colin Jackson, who is injured, Britain's hopes rest on 1993 silver medalist Tony Jarrett, who won his heat in 13.57.

Torrence's disqualification Thursday was just one incident in a seemingly crazy hour at the World Championships. Inessa Kravets, an Ukrainian, broke the triple world record by a massive 41 centimetres, a Syrian heptathlete won her country's first gold medal and Chinese walker Zhao Yongsheng, well ahead in the 50-kilometre race, collapsed of dehydration in the street and was taken to hospital.

Friday's schedule also promised something spectacular. Michael Johnson, already proud owner of the 400-metre title, planned to add the 200 to his collection and become the first man to win both at one major international championships.

There also was the women's 400 hurdles, the men's discus and the prospect of a Kenyan 1-2-3 in the steeplechase.

Torrence didn't consider she lost.

"I'm not going to let this ruin my 100m gold. I was clearly the victor," said the American, who also beat Ottey and Irina Privalova in the 100.

Ottey smiled as she collected the gold medal from Prince Albert of Monaco.

"I don't care," said the 35-year-old Jamaican, who stretched her record medals total to 12 — three gold, three silver, six bronze.

"I saw on TV that she ran out of her lane. That was cheating."

"She ran about two metres shorter than anybody. She ran in somebody's lane which she shouldn't do. It's like having two false starts."

"I don't know if she did it purposely. Sometimes when you run as short as possible you run too close. I heard she did it in the semifinal, too."

Ottey, who lost the 100-metre title to another American runner, Gail Devers, after a photo-finish at Stuttgart two years ago, had more anxious moments to wait until she knew she had her second 200-metre championship in a row.

"Stuttgart was unfair to me," said Ottey, now the winner of three golds, three silvers and six bronze medals at the championships. "I thought I won — even after the photo finish."



Syria's Ghada Shoua'a prays as she holds her country's flag after she won the women's heptathlon at the World Athletics Championships (AFP photo)

Syria's Ghada Shoua'a wins heptathlon gold

GOTHENBURG (R) — What will Syrian President Hafez Al Assad buy Ghada Shoua'a now?

That is the question people may be asking after heptathlete Shoua'a won Syria's first ever gold medal at the World Athletics Championships on Thursday.

After the 25-year-old won the Asian Games last year Al-Assad presented Shoua'a with a villa and a car.

There is no need for a car this time since Shoua'a won a Mercedes for winning the gold, the first medal for a Middle East country at a World Championships.

According to Syrian athletics official Mowafak Jomaa, the first thing the country will organise is a cavalcade from Damascus to her home village of Maharda 120 kilometres away.

Like 1984 Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion Nawal El Moutawakil, the first Arab woman to win a major title, Shoua'a will become a hero for Arab youngsters after her Gothenburg victory.

"It will encourage Arab girls to take up sport," said Shoua'a who won the competition with 6,651 points, 76 points ahead of Russian Svetlana Moskalets.

Jomaa added: "I hope this will give athletics a big push and make it more popular than football in Syria."

Shoua'a paid tribute to her Russian coach, Kim Bukhantsev, who has been guiding her for the last 12 months. "He has been worth 500 points to me," she said.

Bukhantsev, former coach to 1972 Olympic discus champion Faina Melnik, is Shoua'a's second Russian coach under an exchange agreement between the National Olympic committees of Russia and Syria.

He specialises in the throwing events and it was appropriate that Shoua'a should dramatically overturn Moskalets's 220-point lead in the javelin, the sixth event.

With a decisive 54.92 metres in the final round, compared with the Russian's

41.08, she turned the deficit into a 48-point lead ahead of the final event, the 800 metres.

Moskalets needed to beat Shoua'a by three seconds to capture the gold and with 250 metres remaining the Russian swept into the lead.

But Shoua'a tracked her into the home straight before unleashing a kick to win the race in two minutes 14.33 seconds.

Four years ago Shoua'a was unknown in world terms. At the 1991 World Championships she came 24th and was 25th in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

In 1993 she took the Asian Games title and then repeated her victory last year. She also finished third behind her idol, American Olympic champion Jackie Joyner-Kersey, in the 1994 Goodwill Games.

Shoua'a's first sport was basketball and the 1.78-metre tall athlete has represented her national team.

The United Nations Relief & Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East is recruiting at its headquarters in Amman:

UNIFIED REGISTRATION SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR (SOCIAL SERVICES), GRADE 12, VN# HQ(A)-33/95 FIXED TERM THREE YEARS.

(Monthly take home pay about JD 380; plus monthly provident fund of about JD 90 payable at end of service; plus dependency allowance; compulsory medical insurance).
DUTIES: Prepares standard and special reports from social study database on Special Hardship cases to guide social services activities; assists in the maintenance and development of the social study database; assists URS Coordinator in the implementation of an on-the-job training programme for staff in the five fields of UNRWA's areas of operations.

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Amman 11814 Jordan

UNRWA welcomes applications equally from men and women. Full consideration will be given to disabled candidates whose disability does not mitigate the effective performance of the duties of the job. Priority will be given to fully qualified registered Palestinians.

quarters

are four consecutive breaks. And in the first two of the

report won the 15-15 final two of the

ways felt I should be, and when I was asked, I kind of relaxed. Davenport said, "I the big forehand and I to be working sure not out there you attack and I really well, but I that tired."

Chang advanced

ason, Ohio, won one Andre Agassi's time defending on Michael Chang spirited challenge is Becker was one of us to fall in second round at the ATP tour.

fourth-ranked Becker his first appearance in the Wimbledon, fell short in a tight with Dutch left Jan Siemkens.

Unfortunately now, it is a lot of the new instead of playing more matches. Becker

Agassi struggled a tough opening set, roaring through the set overcoming Chang's ace to 7-5. The fourth-seeded Chang was d by 15th-ranked American Alex

prevailing 2-0, each the third round of Becker on the side fifth-seeded Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov fell 6-4, 7-5, 6-3 to Karbacher of Ger

Tel: 625155

HEATRE

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at 8:30 p.m. a please call Amman

Clinton calls for total ban on nuclear tests

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton announced support Friday for complete nuclear test ban, pledging to "build a safe world" half a century after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Mr. Clinton said the United States backed "a true zero yield" test ban, dropping its previous insistence that it could conduct small laboratory nuclear weapons experiments.

"The United States will now insist on a test ban that prohibits any nuclear weapons test explosions or any other nuclear explosion," Mr. Clinton told reporters at the White House.

"A comprehensive test ban is the right step as we continue pulling back from the nuclear precipice," he said. "It moves us one step closer to the day when no nuclear weapons are detonated anywhere on the face of the earth."

Mr. Clinton said he hoped the announcement would speed negotiations for a test ban accord in Geneva and allow conclusion of the talks next year. France called for a similar comprehensive treaty on Thursday.

"This is an historic milestone in our efforts to reduce the nuclear threat, to build a safer world," the U.S. president said.

But Mr. Clinton maintained that he would seek to

reserve the right in such a treaty "to conduct necessary testing in the wake of the 50th anniversary of our nuclear deterrent could no longer be certified."

Mr. Clinton made the announcement in the wake of the 50th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The president pledged in January to make a test ban treaty a priority and that he would work to get global support for an accord.

The Washington Post reported that a panel of scientists advised the administration last week that the small hydronuclear tests were not needed and that larger explosions would not be necessary if other steps were taken to ensure the viability of the U.S. arsenal.

The administration has been torn over the issue of curbing nuclear testing, but officials told the Post that Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman John Shalikashvili and Defence Secretary William Perry had signed on to the president's endorsement.

France's ambassador to the Geneva Disarmament Conference, Gerard Errera, said Thursday the comprehensive test ban treaty being negotiated should "prohibit any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion."

Spurgeon Keeny, president of the private arms control

association, hailed the Clinton decision, calling it "a courageous action."

Mr. Keeny said Mr. Clinton overruled Pentagon efforts to convert the testing moratorium ordered by former President George Bush and continued by Mr. Clinton to one that would prohibit only tests with an explosive force greater than one-half kilotonnes of TNT.

"This should provide the incentive to move the test ban negotiations forward," Mr. Keeny said. "Otherwise, they would have been dead in the water."

All other forms of U.S. nuclear testing — in the atmosphere and under water — were long since banned by treaty. Some 900 nuclear blasts have been conducted at the U.S. test site in Nevada since 1951.

On Thursday, Mr. Clinton said a recent statement by the French government that it would accept a zero threshold for a nuclear test-ban treaty, tantamount to banning all tests, would make negotiating a treaty much easier.

French President Jacques Chirac announced in June that France will stage a new series of seven or eight small-yield nuclear tests in September at its Mururoa atoll range in the Pacific.

He said this week that the site will be closed down once the test series is completed.



BROTHERS-IN-LAW: File photo of Iraqi Minister of Industry Hussein Kamel Hassan (left), son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, who was granted asylum in Jordan on Thursday (see story on page one). At right is Uday Hussein, son of President Saddam Hussein (AFP photo)

Rival Kurds accept truce

DUBLIN (Agencies) — Two rival Iraqi Kurdish groups meeting at U.S.-sponsored peace talks in Ireland have agreed to a temporary ceasefire following a year of bloody clashes, an Iraqi opposition group said on Friday.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) also made ground on two key issues to be discussed at further talks, the Iraqi National Congress (INC) said.

About 3,000 people have been killed in fighting between the militias in northern Iraq in the last year. Much of the feud has been related to control of the main Kurdish city of Erbil and revenues from a makeshift oil trade on the Iraqi-Turkish border.

"They have agreed to specific principles for the resolution of Erbil and the revenues," an INC told Reuters by telephone from the talks venue in Drogheda, about 25 kilometres north of Dublin.

The two groups are to immediately enforce a temporary ceasefire that was broken in July after three months, he said.

"The chances of a more detailed meeting or agreement are positive," KDP Ankara spokesman Safen Dizayee said.

The Iraqi Kurds have been protected from Baghdad by a Western allied air force based in southern Turkey since the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

Washington, fearing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein could use the Kurds to regain influence in northern Iraq, brokered the talks.

The two sides will meet again soon to discuss a plan to demilitarise Erbil and then deposit their revenues in bank accounts to be monitored by a neutral commission, the INC said.

The KDP, led by Massoud Barzani, has insisted at previous mediation talks that its rival give up control of Erbil, the seat of a regional parliament which has been paralysed by the fighting for the last eight months.

Jalal Talabani's PUK has accused Mr. Barzani's group of hoarding tolls taken from

lorry drivers at the border. The drivers bring food and other supplies into northern Iraq and take back small amounts of Iraqi oil.

Turkey, which wants to keep its southeastern border secure from attacks by Kurdish rebels, expressed satisfaction over the accord.

"This is a positive step towards peace and stability," said Nurettin Nurkan, a foreign ministry spokesman.

The accord confirms Turkish demands for Iraq's territorial integrity and takes into consideration its anxiety for security reasons, he told reporters.

Turkey's interest in ending the conflict lies in its view that a united Iraqi Kurdish government is better able to help protect its southeastern border.

Until the PUK and the KDP started fighting last year, Turkey relied partly on them to stop border infiltrations by militants of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) hiding in northern Iraq.

Since then, Turkey has twice invaded northern Iraq

to weed out PKK militants. The PKK has been fighting the government for an independent state in southeastern Turkey since 1984.

The United States sponsored the PUK-KDP negotiations, which were also attended by a Turkish observer.

Meanwhile, representatives of the mainstream northern Iraqi Kurdish parties also expressed relief at the accord and said a partial implementation could start immediately.

"We are very pleased," said the PUK's Shazad Saib. "The important thing is that both parties maintain a ceasefire and we (the PUK) will do our best to make it permanent."

He said the two sides would meet again "in a few weeks" to work out the details of the accord, and set a schedule for its implementation.

In the meantime, he said, "we can maintain the ceasefire, stop media attacks on one another and start to release (exchange) the detainees."

Since then, Turkey has twice invaded northern Iraq

Japan apologises to U.K. for 'suffering' caused in war

LONDON (AFP) — Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama has apologised for "suffering" caused by Japan during World War II, including that to British prisoners of war (PoWs). Downing Street said Friday.

A spokesman said Mr. Murayama had sent a letter to Prime Minister John Major expressing "profound remorse for Japan's actions in a certain period of the past which caused such unbearable suffering and sorrow for so many people."

The letter marked the first formal apology by Tokyo to Britain since the end of World War II, and follows protests by thousands of former PoWs who have demanded compensation from the Japanese government.

Downing Street said it would not disclose any more of the contents of the letter, since it was a confidential correspondence, but said Mr. Major had written to express his sympathy to the letter.

A spokesman said the comments were prefaced by the phrase "with regard to the questions of the past." But Mr. Murayama also referred specifically to a previous verbal apology for acts "including (on) prisoners of war."

"I reiterate this sentiment," he wrote, the spokesman said.

The letter came a week before Victory in Japan (VJ) day next Saturday marking the end of the war in Japan.

Previously Tokyo has apologised to British authorities only verbally.

The issue of Japanese recognition of responsibility for

mistreatment in the war has caused repeated controversies in the region.

Two Japanese cabinet ministers resigned from their posts in May and August last year after their remarks denying Japan's wartime aggression sparked protests particularly from China and South Korea.

A state minister for environmental affairs was accused of saying Japan had not waged a war of aggression, and a justice minister resigned for saying the massacre of Chinese in Nanjing by Japanese soldiers in 1937 was a "fabrication."

Veterans, who last month sued Japan for their wartime suffering, said the fact that the letter was private showed how far Japan had yet to go.

"It is a written apology and a private letter to Prime Minister Major expressing the Japanese prime minister's personal views," said Harold Payne, who heads the National Federation of Far East Prisoners of War.

"What we would want is an apology from the Japanese government as a whole," he told the British Broadcasting Corporation. "The Japanese are always changing their prime ministers, so it's quite hollow."

The former PoWs lawsuit was filed in Tokyo on behalf of 73,000 members of veterans' organisations from Britain, the United States, Australia and New Zealand. The former prisoners are demanding the equivalent of \$22,000 each.

Allied prisoners suffered routine beatings, were used as slave labour, and were often starved.

Sudan to send delegations to explain stand on crisis

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan will send parliamentary delegations to six Arab countries to describe Egyptian "aggressions" in a disputed border region and ask for Arab mediation between the two countries, a newspaper said Friday.

The missions will leave in the coming days with messages for the parliamentary speakers in Libya, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen and Morocco concerning Sudan's position on the Halaib border area, the daily Al Ingaz Al Watani said.

The messages deal with "Egyptian aggressions in Halaib, the beating of Sudanese diplomats in Cairo and the confiscation of Sudanese nationals' properties in Egypt," the paper said.

The missions will point out Sudan's desire for "dialogue or international mediation" with Egypt and urge the parliaments to take "an effective rule in patching up Arab rifts."

Parliamentary delegations will also head next week to Sudan's provinces to discuss implementing a federal government system, paper said.

Egyptian security forces

arrested 23 Sudanese for illegally crossing the border into Egypt, police sources said Friday.

The 23 were picked up "in a sweep over the past few days" on Egypt's southern border to stop Muslim extremist elements from Sudan," the source said.

Nearly 100 Sudanese have been turned back at Cairo airport since July 8, when Egypt imposed for the first time entry and resident visa requirements on Sudanese citizens, the source added.

Cairo imposed the requirements when relations between the two countries went into crisis after Egypt accused Khartoum of backing the June 26 assassination attempt on President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry announced that it received Khartoum's approval of its new ambassador to Sudan.

Hilmi Hamid Saleh Bedir will replace Hassan Gad Al Haq, whose term ends the end of August, the ministry said.

Despite the hostility between them, the two countries have maintained diplomatic ties.

Cyprus murder trial is adjourned

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) — The three-week-old trial of three British soldiers accused of kidnapping and killing a Danish woman was adjourned Friday until Sept. 4 while the court goes into summer recess.

Prosecution's star witness Michael Vassiliades, the Cypriot boyfriend of the slain woman, concluded four days of testimony, rejecting defence claims that his recollection of events on the night of the slaying 11 months ago was flawed.

He has testified that the three Britons were the men who attacked him and his girlfriend, Louise Jensen, 23, in the tourist resort of Ayia Napa on the night of Sept. 12-13.

In the most dramatic moment of the trial, Mr. Vassiliades testified how the soldiers beat up Jensen, of Hirtshals, Denmark, before bundling her into their car and driving off with her.

The soldiers are accused of manslaughter, kidnapping and conspiracy to rape the Danish tour guide. They have pleaded innocent to all charges.

The defendants are Alan Ford, 26, Justin Fowler, 26, and Jeff Farnell, 23.

All are serving with the Royal Green Jackets regiment at the British sovereign base of Dhekelia on the East Mediterranean island's south coast.

Mr. Vassiliades told the court earlier that the soldiers ran him off the road in their car as he and Jensen were riding home on his motorcycle. Jensen's leg was pinned beneath the motor after it crashed.

Under cross-examination Friday, he said that while he was trying to free her he asked if she was all right.

"She laughed," he said. "She thought it was all a joke. She laughed as if nothing was wrong."

But at that moment, he said, the defendants reversed towards him in their car.

One got out with a shovel in his hand and chased him away, then all three started beating up Jensen on the ground before driving off with her, he testified.

Mr. Vassiliades alerted police, who arrested the soldiers at a roadblock 90 minutes later.

A police statement at the time said there were bloodstains on their clothes, the seats of the car and a shovel in the vehicle.

Jensen's battered body was found in a shallow grave near Ayia Napa two days later. Prosecution witnesses have stated that they had seen the soldiers drinking heavily on the night of the killing.

The police statement said the three confessed to killing Jensen.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Detained boat vanishes in Cypriot fog

NICOSIA (AFP) — A ferry boat detained by authorities at the Cypriot port of Limassol disappeared in the morning mist on Friday, the official news agency NCA reported. The Carla, a Panamanian boat which ran the Limassol-Beirut route, was ordered held at the southern port on August because it had failed to pay bills owed to an oil company, port sources said. The guards from a private security company posted at the boat found it was gone when a thick dawn fog over the region lifted, CNA said. Authorities have dispatched a cruiser and a helicopter to find the runaway, perhaps between Egypt and Lebanon, CNA said.

Carter suggests U.S.-China summit

ATLANTA (R) — Former President Jimmy Carter suggested on Friday that the United States and China hold a summit meeting if growing differences between the two countries go unresolved. "Strategically, problems with other countries fade into relative insignificance when compared with the deterioration of relations between the United States and China," Mr. Carter wrote in an opinion article syndicated by the New York Times and published in the Atlanta Constitution. "Each side needs to treat the other with sensitivity and respect. Private negotiations — not public ultimatums — are necessary to address the controversial issues," wrote Mr. Carter, who in 1978 conducted secret negotiations that led to full diplomatic relations between the United States and China. "If problems are not resolved, a long-overdue summit between the two heads of state should be scheduled," he said.

Turkey warns Greek-Cypriots against war

ANKARA (AFP) — The departing commander of Turkish forces stationed on Cyprus since 1974 warned Greek Cypriots on Friday against any "folly" leading to war on the divided island. "We want peace. We have never targeted others' territories," General Necati Ozgen said, quoted by the Turkish Cypriot news agency TAK, received in Ankara. "But if (Greek Cypriots) commit any sort of folly, this time the objective will be (to take) Paphos" on the far southwest corner of the island, Gen. Ozgen said. Gen. Ozgen, who was promoted to commander of the Turkish Third Army based in Erzurum (south Turkey), made the comments in a speech to the Association of Turkish Cypriot Combatants before ending his tour of duty on the island. In late June, Turkish and Turkish-Cypriot officials expressed concern about "the excessive military buildup of the Greek Cypriot administration." Some officials said they feared Greek Cypriots were planning a "nocturnal attack on the Turks" on the island.

Soames to take Yugo policy to Mideast

LONDON (AFP) — British Defence Secretary Nicholas Soames will visit three Middle Eastern countries next week to clarify Britain's position on former Yugoslavia to the Arab world. Mr. Soames will visit Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia as well as Morocco from Aug. 13-17 to explain in particular the limitations of the U.N. peacekeeping force in war-ravaged former Yugoslavia, the Defence Ministry said Friday. The Arab World has rallied behind Bosnia's Muslims with some threatening to unilaterally break a U.N.-imposed arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina and others pledging material and financial support for their Muslim brethren.

Israeli poll shows Rabin, Netanyahu, neck-and-neck

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu would be neck-and-neck in the race for prime minister if elections were held now, an Israeli opinion poll published on Friday showed.

The Dahaf Poll published in the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper said Labour's Rabin and Likud leader Netanyahu would each garner 41 per cent of the vote if they were the only candidates.

Eight per cent of the 504 Israelis surveyed said they would not vote and 10 per cent were undecided. The poll showed that if former Likud Foreign Minister David Levy and right-wing Tsomet Party leader Rafael Eitan entered the race, Mr. Netanyahu's share would drop to 31 per cent, with Mr. Rabin hovering at 39 per cent.

In June, the same institute put Mr. Rabin one point in front of Mr. Netanyahu with 39 per cent of voting intentions.

General elections are due to take place in November 1996 when the prime minister will be directly elected for the first time.

The poll was taken as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met to hammer out the terms of an interim peace deal on Israeli troop redeployment in the West Bank under the 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord on Palestinian self-rule (see page one).

Mr. Netanyahu has said he would freeze the peace moves initiated by Mr. Rabin if he wins the election, scheduled for November 1996.

Some said they feared President Saddam might send hit squads to Jordan to assassinate the defectors who are staying at an undisclosed location near Amman under heavy army guard.

"If he stays here, I expect Saddam would do everything to kill him," said Atallah Bakri, a 32-year-old electrician.

Others doubted they were sincere in their opposition to President Saddam, and one Iraqi businessman even scorned Hussein Kamel Hassan.

"They took part in inflicting the sanctions and miseries on the people and in trapping Iraq," he said. "Now they leave and pretend they are saviours who are ready to contact the West when the leadership is in need of men around it."

Many said they believed that Hussein Kamel Hassan left due to family disputes after President Saddam began to narrow the circle around him in favour of his two sons Uday and Qusay

COLUMN

Yorks' Spanish holiday fuels royal reunion speculation

LONDON (AFP) — Speculation about a possible reconciliation between the Duke and Duchess of York was further fuelled Friday as they headed off for a joint holiday in Spain, days after being seen kissing in public. Prince Andrew and Fergie, who separated in 1992 and have played down all question of a royal reunion, are due to spend a week in a villa on the Costa del Sol with their children, seven-year-old Beatrice and five-year-old Eugenie. Buckingham Palace has dismissed all talk of the colourful pair getting back together, rife all week since they staged a public kiss at a charity golf match earlier in the week. The couple have remained close despite their separation, and publicity concerning the 'duchess' liaison with her 'adviser' Johnny Bryan. Monday's public kiss at Wentworth Golf Club was widely regarded as an encouraging sign. But a palace spokeswoman said: "The Duke and Duchess of York are having an entirely private holiday in Spain. They remain the closest of friends and in the interests of the children they spend as much time as possible together as a family... Any speculation about a reconciliation is guesswork," the spokeswoman said.

Ramos takes charge as blaze hits palace

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos took charge of fire-fighting operations at the Malacanang presidential palace on Thursday when a blaze broke out in one of the buildings inside the complex. "Grab a hose," Mr. Ramos told a Reuters reporter who approached him. Fire officials said the blaze in the four-storey administrative building broke out at 7:05 a.m. (2305 GMT Wednesday). No casualties were reported. Mr. Ramos, wearing shorts and a T-shirt, was supervising the fire-fighting, giving orders through a cellular phone. Palace employees said Mr. Ramos, a former career soldier, was jogging in the grounds when the fire broke out and immediately took charge.

Britain's women bowlers ban Henry the parrot

LONDON (R) — A noisy, bad-tempered parrot has been banned from a national women's bowls championship in Britain for laughing and making disrespectful remarks. Henry is used to sitting on the shoulder of his owner Ralph Shakespeare as he plays at the Bowls Club in Leamington Spa, central England, and regularly comments on the matches. But the club is being used for the early rounds of the National Women's Bowls Championships and officials have decided Henry could put visiting players off their game. "Henry... has been known to scream 'You're a yard short' for some reason people find that objectionable," Mr. Shakespeare, a former national team player, told the Times newspaper. "We felt it was not right and proper for players in a competition to be distracted by a parrot," club president Roy Stevenson said.

President won't resign — unless...

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton responded with a smile and a joke when asked Thursday if he might resign. The question came from columnist Sarah McClendon, a veteran of more than half a century on the White House beat, who asserted that legislators from the left and right were trying to embarrass Mr. Clinton so much that he would quit. "Would you resign your office under any circumstances?" she asked, drawing laughter from administration supporters who had been invited to sit in for a White House news conference. "Well, if you promise to run off with me I might," the 48-year-old president responded to the 85-year-old reporter, drawing even more laughter. "Otherwise, I can't think of any reason."

Army pr

AMMAN (J.T.) — that the army was carrying rifles, the northern Jordanian army had captured a Jordan. "An infiltrator was arrested in the area of Argem, a statement said it was smuggled into Israel. The Jordanian army incident through an investigation, other information identified under a borders safe and

Volume 19

Ir top Hussein will wo

By P.V. Nivika
Jordan Times
Reporter

Amman — An Iraqi and son-in-law of Hussein on Saturday to work with Iraq and outside the country to topple the Iraqi regime. He said he saw a way to misguidedly persuade the government to defect him to defect.

Kamel Hassan, who granted asylum in last week during his wife as well as his and his wife — brothers of President Saddam — said he did not see Baghdad government retaliate against him.

"I do not see any relation from against Jordan," Hassan, making his appearance at a press conference held on the Baghdad Palace. The regime "would have so, but it is a mistake for reasons that are one."

"It will be a mistake for Iraq to start a war with Jordan over this," added Gen. Hassan, who thanked his Majesty Hussein for the "asylum" granted to him and his family.

Gen. Hassan said direct question — efforts to topple Saddam were discussed with King Hussein, who was working with his capabilities. "When we need our will request it from King."

One of his top

50 held in Italy U.S. drugs rac

REGGIO CALABRIA — An Italian magistrate Saturday ordered 50 to stand trial on charges smuggling drugs between Italy and the United Kingdom, judicial sources said.

are accused of involvement in an operation providing heroin for the North African market in exchange for kilos of cocaine. Aroli, a 30-year-old Italian, was arrested in southern Italy this week, according to sources.

Prosecutors from Catania and Reggio Calabria worked with colleagues in New York in planning a series of arrests that broke the case of 24 national authorities as well as scheduled to open Jan. 19, 1996.

Indian suspect arrested in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — a man suspected of being a most wanted terrorist in the United States and faces deportation to India, U.S. immigration officials said. Daya Singh Sandhu, an alleged leader of a militant group Khawass, was arrested in the United States and is scheduled to be deported to India on Aug. 2.